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Infosys Prize: Kannada scholar among winners

BENGALURU
A scholar of Prakrit and Kannada poetics and a Bengaluru-based scientist are among six winners of the Infosys Prize 2025. » PAGE 2

State govt. notifies menstrual leave policy

BENGALURU
In what brings cheer and relief to the female workforce across Karnataka, the State government on Wednesday notified the menstrual leave policy, allowing one day leave a month, paving the way for its implementation. » PAGE 6

Driver, doctor accused in blast case visited Red Fort in January

One of them visited Turkiye a few years ago, officials suspect that during the visit, accused doctor met one of his handlers from the Jaish-e-Mohammed; Faridabad police recover a red Ford EcoSport car linked to accused from a village in Haryana

Vijaita Singh
Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

Security officials investigating the November 10 car explosion near the Red Fort said on Wednesday that one of the accused in the case, a doctor, and the driver of the explosives-laden vehicle, also a doctor, had visited the monument in January.

Officials said they found a photo of Dr. Umar Nabi, believed to the sole occupant of the car, and Dr. Muzamil Ahmad Ganaie, 32, visiting the Red Fort in January. Dr. Ganaie was arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir Police on October 30.

The photo was retrieved from Dr. Ganaie's phone, they said. The doctors, hailing from Pulwama in south Kashmir, were working at Al-Falah University in Faridabad, Haryana.

A senior government official said Dr. Ganaie and his brother's visit to Turkiye a few years ago was also under investigation. Officials suspect that during the visit, the accused doctor met one of his handlers from the Jaish-e-Mohammed, a Pakistan-based terror outfit.

On alert: Security personnel near the Red Fort amid heightened security in Delhi on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Car found

The Faridabad police on Wednesday evening traced a red Ford EcoSport car with registration number DL10 CK 0458, flagged by the Delhi Police and linked to the blast, to a village named Khandawali. The Delhi Police sounded an alert for the car, said to be purchased by Dr. Nabi. Forensic experts are examining the vehicle, a spokesperson said.

According to Delhi Police sources, Dr. Nabi used a fake address to purchase his second car. "He used the address of a madrasa in northeast Delhi. The police raided the spot late on Tuesday night and interrogated the maulvi," said a senior officer.

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Al-Falah varsity distances itself from accused

DHOUJ
The Al-Falah University on Wednesday issued a statement distancing itself from those accused of being part of the 'Faridabad terror module'. The police conducted several raids on campus and searches in the nearby villages of Dhouj and Fatehpur Taga. » PAGE 10

Modi-led Cabinet describes blast as 'terrorist incident'

NEW DELHI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union Cabinet on Wednesday described the car explosion near the Red Fort as a "terrorist incident", expressing grief over the loss of lives and directing that the investigation be pursued with utmost urgency. » PAGE 10

Retail inflation hits record low of 0.25%

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation fell to a historic low of 0.25% in October, with the government attributing this fall to the first full month's impact of GST rate cuts, a favourable base effect, and drop in inflation of several food items such as vegetables and fruits.

According to the government, this is the lowest rate of inflation measured in the current series of the Consumer Price Index.

That is, it is the lowest rate of inflation since January 2012. The data reveal that the fall in overall inflation is largely due to the statistical impact of the base effect on food inflation.

Most of the other categories in the CPI saw inflation higher in October 2025 than in the same month last year.

The data show that the food and beverages category saw prices contract 3.7% in October 2025, following up on a contraction of 1.4% in September.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Two killed, 20 injured in boiler explosion at Gujarat pharma unit

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

At least two workers were killed and 20 injured in a boiler explosion at a pharmaceutical factory in Bharuch district of Gujarat in the early hours of Wednesday, officials said.

The factory in the Saykha GIDC area collapsed in the impact of the blast that occurred around 2.30 a.m., they said. The blast triggered a massive fire. "While most workers managed to escape, two were trapped under the debris and died. Their bodies were recovered after the fire was brought under control," they said.

Nearly 20 workers sustained minor injuries and were provided treatment.

The blast at the factory in Bharuch district triggered a massive fire. PTI

Authorities are verifying reports about one more missing worker.

Officials from the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health have reached the spot to probe the cause of the explosion and check whether the factory possessed the required licences and safety clearances.

New setback rules for buildings on plots of up to 150 sq m

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Urban Development Department (UDD) has amended setback norms for buildings constructed on plots of up to 150 sq m in Bengaluru and issued a draft notification on Tuesday.

The amendments to the Zoning Regulations of Revised Master Plan - 2015 have been put out for public scrutiny. Objections, if any, can be filed in the next 30 days.

Reduction

The draft notification reduces setback area for buildings on plots up to 150 sq m (up to 1,600 sq ft).

Earlier, these buildings were mandated to leave a setback of 12% of the site's depth in the front, 8% of the site's depth in the rear, and 8% of the site's width on either side. Now, the new draft notification introduces staggered setbacks depending on the size of the plot.

Buildings on plots up to 60 sq m (20X30 sites) have to leave a setback of 0.7 metres in the front and 0.6 metres on all other sides.

Buildings on plots above 60 sq m and up to 150 sq m (30X40 and 30X50 sites) have to leave a setback of 0.9 metres in the front, 0.7 metres in the rear, and 0.7 metres on other sides.

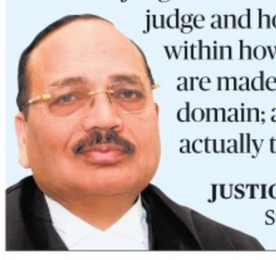
CONTINUED ON » PAGE 2

All HCs should upload details of time taken by judges to deliver verdicts: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said all High Courts should put out in the public domain the time taken by their judges to pronounce verdicts in pending cases.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi was hearing a plea by four life convicts from the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. They had complained that the Jharkhand High Court had not pronounced its verdicts on their criminal appeals even after reserving the cases for judgment two to three years ago.



> Let everybody know how many judgments have been reserved by any judge and how many are pronounced; within how many days the judgments are made available in the public domain; and how many days HCs actually take to upload judgments
>
> **JUSTICE SURYA KANT**
> Supreme Court Judge

There are no specific timelines within which judges have to deliver verdicts. The convention is that they ought to pronounce judgments within a reasonable time, from two to six months, of reserving cases. However, judges, including in the Supreme Court and the High Courts, have in practice reserved judgments for well over a year before delivering them. This may be due to the complexity of the question of law involved or the burden of work.

Justice Kant, who is Chief Justice of India-designate, indicated that reforms and transparency in judicial functioning must not be limited to litigants alone, it should also meet the legitimate expectations of the public at large.

"Let everybody know how many judgments have been reserved by any judge and how many are pronounced; within how many days the judgments are made available in the public domain; and how many days High Courts take to upload judgments," he observed.

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I just don't have the perspective of a player... I have the perspective of a coach and a parent

The former India star, who is juggling coaching and commentary, says the country's players need to plan things well; feels a good coach sitting on the sidelines can make a lot of difference; praises the performances of Shrivalli and Sahaja at the WTA event in Chennai

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

INTERVIEW

Nirupama Sanjeev

K. Keerthivasan

Just like her playing days, 48-year-old Nirupama Sanjeev gives her all in the commentary box. Her years of playing on the WTA Tour including Grand Slams and later stints at coaching children, aspiring professionals, and her daughter have given her the added perspective of a player, parent and coach.

It was all evident at the WTA 250 Chennai Open 2025 at the SDAT-Nungambakkam Stadium. The first Indian woman player to win a round at a Grand Slam (1998 Australian Open) spoke to *The Hindu* on a variety of issues including what the current Indian players lack, the way forward and her views on on-court coaching, which was officially introduced in January this year. "A good coach sitting on the sidelines can make a lot of difference," said the former India No.1 and the 1998 Asian Games bronze medallist in mixed doubles with Mahesh Bhupathi.

When and how did your commentating stint begin?

It started first when the men's Gold Flake Open was held in Chennai in the year 2000. And then, I did commentary for Star Sports and ESPN with Indian tennis legend Vijay Amritraj and Alan Wilkins for Wimbledon and US Open. I did it for a few years and then took a break as I was busy travelling with my daughter since she was competing in ITF tournaments. Now, she is pursuing academics at Johns Hopkins University, USA. And I have time.

You took your first break sometime in early 2000, right?

After my daughter was born in 2002, I did not have the bandwidth to travel. Especially because my husband also travels quite a bit being in an IT job. Before that, I was running the Niru's Tennis Academy in San Jose (California) with my brother. Last year, we closed it down. My brother and me ran it for 19 years from 2004 till 2023. Now, we host tournaments in Florida.

What kind of tournaments do you host?

We host United States Tennis Association and UTR tournaments for aspiring professionals. I also teach on the side and whoever really wants can get training, mostly juniors.

How much are you enjoying your second innings as a coach and commentator?

Yes, I love it. Because after my stint in coaching, perspective has changed. I just don't have the perspective of a tennis player. I have the perspective of a coach and a parent. I have a lots of perspectives, which I feel are way more important now.

Where did you learn the finer aspects of commentary?

Actually, the first time I did it in Chennai, I did it with Vijay Amritraj in 2000. I was still on the tour at that time. That's when I did the commentary. Vijay gave a few tips to make me feel very relaxed. And then when I did for Star Sports in 2001, I was still playing. I was in Wimbledon (played in the qualifying rounds). And that's where I met Alan Wilkins. He really helped me a lot. I got to do commentary with former Australian coach Darren Cahill during the US Open when he was commentating for Star Sports. He's another person whom I learnt a lot. At Wimbledon, I learnt a bit from former player Brad Gilbert. All these people, when you hear them talk, you just learn a lot.

You were here in 2022 for the WTA 250 Chennai Open as a commentator. How was your experience?

Yes, I was here. The field was much better then. It's also because the weather was also very conducive. Having a 17-year-old Linda Fruhvirtova win the title was great. The weather, I think, is a main factor at this time when you host tournaments. I think it was helpful in September [2022]. It was special for me because my daughter was there with me at the time as we were going to an ITF tournament in Kuwait from here [Chennai].

How has the experience for you been this time around?

It's been amazing. And having Alan Wilkins here is very special because I haven't seen him in nearly 20 years. He is partly my mentor in the commentator's box along with Vijay Amritraj.

Any good matches you loved watching this time?

I really enjoyed watching Indonesia's Janice Tjen because she is so unconventional and she brings something that you don't usually see. To see her (backhand) slice and come in and hit volleys, it's fun to see that. I did enjoy watching the Thai girl (Lanlana) Tararudee as well. She had a lot of personality. Especially, the way she hit the ball on her forehand was just great. And then, there was Croatia's Donna Vekic. Our Indian players, Shrivalli Bhamidipatty and Sahaja Yamalapalli, I felt happy seeing them play and perform pretty well.

How did the Indians, Shrivalli, Sahaja, Maaya Rajeshwaran play in the tournament?

Shrivalli played really well against Kimberly Birrell in the second round, losing 7-5, 7-6 (2). It was a tough match. It could have gone either way. Our players lack the experience to win at the level.

Sahaja, too, played really well. Maaya was too nervous. I don't think that's her game at all. She put too much pressure on herself for no reason but then, you know, you don't know how a 16-year-old thinks. 100% that's not her game.

I think we have to cut her some slack and let her breathe a little bit and she needs to learn from these. I do feel a little bit of variety in shot-making will also help our players. To match the top players shot for shot may not be the right course of action for us if our fitness is not on par with them.

Since you started playing in the 1990s, so many things have changed in Indian tennis. How much has been for the better and how much for the worse?

I still think tournament selection should be better for the girls. I think they have to do a better job of picking tournaments. Sometimes, you need to play lower-tier tournaments, get rankings, gain confidence and then get seeded. Then go for higher-tier tournaments. Playing in USA is good to get your level up because you will play against players who are really good and your level will improve but that's not necessarily the best course of action in terms of your rankings, I feel. I would really like to see them play together and travel together. A: The power is extreme. Girls are hitting the ball much harder. The physicality has changed. The recovery has changed. So has the longevity. The ice bath and all was unheard of when I was playing. For us, it was 'you just go and stretch.'

India hosted quite a few WTT tournaments this year. It did host a men's Challenger and lower-level women tournaments this year including seven ITF Women's World Tour tournaments and a WTA 125 and WTA 250. But do you think more of 125 & 250 will help Indians improve their game?

Many of them are not that badly off. They are able to go play outside India but you have to qualify. Fourth seed Janice Tjen, who won the Chennai Open, is a good example. If you look at her record, she has come through the qualifiers, come through the hard way and goes on to do well in tournaments.

That is an indicator that she is on the right track. Indian players need to plan things accordingly and have the right coach travelling with them. Indian players are playing really well. I think Maya, Shrivalli, Sahaja should join together, have a coach and travel together.

Tennis is an individual sport. Is it possible?

That's the thing. Then you decide what is important. All I am trying to say is what Thailand did, this is what Indonesia did. It used to make a huge difference for them to play with each other. The safety is taken care of and a coach they can share. There is so much that can be done but time and time again we are going back to the old thing of one player travelling here, one player there. What is the point. There has to be a joint effort. Otherwise, it is not going to work. Having 250 & 150 tournaments might or might not happen. First, our game has to improve and then we can get to that. I think there will be more tournaments once you see somebody [Indian players] make such strides. People will come up with these tournaments, it will definitely happen. But first let's see the girls getting into the world's top 200. Then it will automatically happen. I guarantee you.

Do you still consider coaching young and senior players?

See the thing is there has to be mutual respect in coaching. I am beyond that stage where I want to babysit people. For me, it's like if somebody really wants to do it, they have to want it a lot. I am open to anything. It's just that it has to be on my terms and we have to be aligned.

What is your view on on-court coaching?

What I found after watching many matches here was, nowadays the whole coaching scenario has completely changed because you are actually allowed to coach. From when I was playing to now, it's completely different. And the importance of a good coach who is calm and composed and who can give the right kind of advice to the player has become way more important. It has become quite imperative. So somebody like Joanna Garland of Taipei who lost from 5-0 in the third set against Kimberly Birrell in the semifinals, I think something like that could have been averted if there was a good coach in her camp who can tell her to be calm and tell her to do the right things. I feel nowadays if somebody doesn't have a good coach, I think they can attribute some of their losses to the coach!

I think a good coach sitting on the sidelines can actually say just one or two things like watch the ball or stay calm or be composed and don't worry about results. Those things can actually make a difference.

How do you see your future as a commentator and coach?

I enjoy both, but I also enjoy being home and doing gardening and taking care of my dogs. I am equally happy coaching grass-roots level. I have a couple of young kids in Florida to coach. I am happy doing that too. I am acclimatizing myself with the latest coaching techniques. I don't want to travel for 30 weeks a year.

On Rohan Bopanna's retirement...

I had a fantastic time in mixed doubles with Rohan in the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi. He was very supportive as I was making a comeback to the Indian team. We had a very tough match against Anastasia Rodionova and Paul Hanley of Australia in the first round. We still pushed them to the third set before losing the decider 6-3. I still remember that match. Rohan is a fantastic person, always straight to the point. Nothing artificial about him. A few years later, when my daughter was playing in an ITF tournament in Indian Wells, he came to watch her. He is very down-to-earth and am so lucky to have known him. Wish him the best in his retirement.

'Need to strengthen national, institutional focus on research for a better India'

Narayana Murthy, Infosys co-founder, delivering a lecture during the announcement of the Infosys Prize 2025 in Bengaluru on Wednesday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Infosys co-founder N.R. Narayana Murthy stressed on the need to strengthen national and institutional focus on research for a better India and for a better world.

On Wednesday, delivering a lecture on 'The importance of research for India and the world' at the announcement of the Infosys Prize 2025, Mr. Murthy said, "Research is the broadening of the mind that leads to unravelling the mysteries of nature, seeing what others have not yet seen, and finding plausibly impossible solutions to the problems faced by mankind. The need of the day for our country is to strengthen our national and institutional focus on research for a better India and for a better world."

'Unbridled imagination'
He added that research effort needs the audacity, daring, unbridled imagination, and the ability not to be cowed down by failures.

"Research is also about not feeling defeated by failures; learning from those failures, avoiding those mistakes in the future, and improving. Let us remember the words of Thomas Alva Edison, one of the finest engineering minds, who said- I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work," he added.

'Not luxuries'
Mr. Murthy said that the winners of the prize once again remind us that science and research are not luxuries, but necessities for human survival, dignity, and progress.

"Creating such an ecosystem for research is our unfailing duty because, ultimately, research is the only means we have to make India a better nation, and this world a better world," Mr. Murthy said.

Infosys Prize: Kannada scholar among winners

The prize honours the accomplishments of individuals whose research and scholarship significantly impact the country

(From left): Nikhil Agarwal (Economics), Sushant Sachdeva (Engineering and Computer Science), Andrew Ollett (Humanities and Social Sciences), Anjana Badrinarayanan (Life Sciences), Sabyasachi Mukherjee (Mathematical Sciences), and Karthish Manthiram (Physical Sciences). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A scholar of Prakrit and Kannada poetics and a Bengaluru-based scientist are among six winners of the Infosys Prize 2025.

On Wednesday, the Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) announced the winners of the Infosys Prize 2025 in six categories-Economics, Engineering and Computer Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, and Physical Sciences.

The prize honours the accomplishments of individuals whose research and scholarship significantly impact India.

The prize for each category comprises a gold medal, a citation, and a prize purse of $100,000 (or its equivalent in rupees).

"I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the winners of the Infosys Prize 2025, whose achievements reflect the vital connection between research, science, and society, inspiring the next generation of innovators. The Infosys Prize continues to embody our belief that research and science are cornerstones of human progress. It reflects the foundation's enduring commitment to nurturing a culture that drives innovation and broadens understanding across disciplines," said K. Dinesh, president - Board of Trustees, IFS.

The winners of the Infosys Prize 2025 in the six categories are:

Economics
Nikhil Agarwal: Paul A. Samuelson Professor of Economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he has won the prize for his pioneering contribution to market design, including the development and implementation of path-breaking methodology for empirical studies of allocation mechanisms, including school choice, medical residency, and kidney exchanges.

Humanities and Social Sciences
Andrew Ollett: Associate Professor in the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago, he is regarded the world's foremost scholar of the Prakrit languages in this generation. His book, *Language of the Snakes*, is a magisterial analysis of the cultural roles of Prakrit in tandem with Sanskrit and the Indian vernaculars over the last 2,000 years. His linguistic mastery and knowledge ranges from detailed contributions to the study of Sanskrit, Prakrit, Kannada, Tamil, Old Javanese, and Chinese, in addition to his knowledge of the modern European languages, and his training in Greek and Latin.

Engineering and Computer Science
Sushant Sachdeva: Associate Professor (CSC) of Mathematical and Computational Sciences at the University of Toronto, he has been awarded for his deep insights into mathematical optimisation and the resolution of longstanding open questions in algorithmic theory that has established new standards on achievable performance in computational problems affecting information flows across societal lifelines, including the internet, transportation, and communication networks.

Life Sciences
Anjana Badrinarayanan: Associate Professor at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, the award is in recognition of her pioneering contributions to understanding mechanisms of genome maintenance and repair. Through innovative live-cell imaging combined with genetic and cell biological approaches, her work has revealed fundamental principles of how DNA damage is repaired, demonstrated mutagenesis in non-dividing cells, and identified novel pathways of mitochondrial DNA damage responses, illuminating principles central to life and evolution.

Mathematical Sciences
Sabyasachi Mukherjee: Associate Professor at the School of Mathematics at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, he has won the prize for his powerful and original work that links two distinct areas of mathematics- the dynamics of Kleinian group actions and the iteration of holomorphic and anti-holomorphic maps in complex dynamics. His results have reshaped our understanding of conformal dynamics, an area of study that has important implications across physics, fluid dynamics, and even data science.

Physical Sciences
Karthish Manthiram: Professor of Chemical Engineering at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), he is awarded for his pioneering work on sustainable electrochemical routes to essential chemicals. His breakthroughs in lithium-mediated ammonia synthesis and oxygen-atom transfer catalysis have transformed our understanding of electrified chemical manufacturing, demonstrating how renewable electricity can drive selective, efficient synthesis of chemicals that are fundamental to agriculture and industry.

From Page One

New setback rules for buildings on plots up to 150 sq m

Setback norms

- Site area up to 60 sq. metre - setback of 0.7 metre in the front, 0.6 metre on any side
- Site area above 60 sq. metre up to 150 sq. metre - setback of 0.9 metre in the front, 0.7 metre at the rear, and 0.7 metre on any side
- Site area above 150 sq. metre up to 4,000 sq. metre - setback of 12% of the site depth in the front, 8% of the site depth in the rear, 8% of the site width on either side
- Site area above 4,000 sq. metre - setback of 5 metre on all sides

The setback for buildings on plots above 150 sq. metre and up to 4,000 square metre and those above remain unchanged.

Setbacks for smaller plots
"Earlier, setbacks for even smaller plots were being calculated as a percentage of the plot depth and width. Now, we have mandated the exact setbacks. This is marginally lesser, but avoids confusion and will maintain uniformity," a senior official said.

Earlier in August this year, the UDD amended setback norms to accommodate stilt parking, and introduced a calibrated setback system for buildings above the height of 12 metres.

Further, according to the draft notification issued on Tuesday, for plots up to 150 square metre, the maximum permissible building height shall be 12 metres, excluding the stilt floor.

Open staircase
An open staircase can be allowed in the setback area in plot size up to 750 square metre. The setback area shall not be paved or covered by any hard surface, which prevents percolation of rainwater, as far as possible, the draft notification further states.

Mechanical parking
The new rules provides for 'vehicle parking in the basement or at any level of upper floors, including terrace area by using lift, computerised, mechanised, or hydraulic equipment' and lays down rules for the same.

The mechanical equipment for the same shall be placed on the basement floor only, which should have an access via a staircase as well. Provision has to be made for manual operation as well to tackle emergencies.

Flood-prone and low-lying areas
The draft rules ban construction of a basement in flood-prone and low-lying areas, as notified by the competent authority.

Further, the rules hold the building owner responsible for the safety of adjoining buildings during the construction of the basement. This follows several instances where unscientific basement construction has hampered the structural safety of adjoining buildings.

Eastern Himalayan birds under threat: IISc Study

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A new study from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has revealed that insectivorous birds found in the understorey of the Eastern Himalayas are under threat due to habitat degradation.

Researchers at the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES) studied how changes in forest microclimates after selective logging influence the survival of wild bird populations in the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, over a period of 10 years between 2011 and 2021.

A Chestnut-headed Tesia being ringed by trained field staff. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Birds tagged
The team tagged birds with lightweight aluminium rings and revisited the same sites annually to track their survival and changes in body mass. The IISc said that the team paired this dataset with temperature-humidity loggers placed in both primary and logged forests, to estimate how understorey insectivorous birds which live below the canopy adapt to microclimatic changes.

"Using these long-term data sets, we can better understand why some species survive after logging while others decline strongly," said Akshay Bharadwaj, a former Master of Science student at CES and corresponding author of the study.

Overall, the team found that logged forests are consistently hotter and drier during the day and colder at night in comparison to primary forests, exposing birds to stressful fluctuations due to loss of the forest canopy.

Climate change impact
These conditions, the scientists say, could intensify with climate change, especially in the Eastern Himalayas where bird species are thermal specialists.

Their findings reveal that these birds, which utilise very different primary and logged forest microclimatic niches, are most adversely affected in a logged forest and they experience a decline in body mass, and steep declines in long-term survival.

"Species that can still find microclimates in logged forests similar to their original forest homes are surviving after selective logging. It is those which can't match their old conditions that face steep declines," said Mr. Bharadwaj. Based on their findings, the researchers suggest that conservation strategies should prioritise preserving primary forest across elevational gradients.

The study highlights the significance of understanding why certain species of birds are declining after logging, and how microclimatic niches in disturbed habitats influence population dynamics.

Long-term database
"Long-term datasets are crucial for this, and we are continuing to collect these data to try and plan effective conservation measures for these bird species.

As the climate warms, the persistence of microhabitats will be crucial for many species to remain resilient to climate impacts," said Umesh Srinivasan, assistant professor at CES and co-author of the study.

Man held for sexual harassment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 30-year-old man was caught by residents after he allegedly sexually harassed a home alone physically challenged girl at her house in Adugodi on Sunday.

The accused has been identified as Vikram, a resident of L.R. Nagar.

According to the police, the victim's mother, who works as a domestic help, returned home from work on Sunday to find the door locked from the inside. After repeated attempts, she forced open the door to find her daughter disrobed and scared. She later found Vikram hiding behind a door. Vikram attempted to flee but was chased and caught by residents.

The Adugodi police have registered a case.

Govt. proposes to merge govt. schools with 'KPS magnet' schools

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government, which is planning to start the Karnataka Public Schools (KPSs) across the State, has proposed to merge nearby government schools with what it calls 'KPS Magnet' schools that have good facilities.

On a pilot, the KPS school at Honganuru in Channapatna taluk of Bengaluru South District has been identified as a magnet school, and steps have been taken to merge as many as seven government Lower Primary Schools (LPS) and Higher Primary Schools (HPS) in nearby villages with this school.

The Honganuru school was in the news recently for its alumni pumping in ₹14 crore to refurbish it and add new facilities.

Educationists and student organisations have expressed objection to this move to close government schools in the name of 'merging' them.

Magnet school project
To strengthen government schools, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has decided to upgrade 800 government schools into KPSs at a cost of about ₹3,000 crore. These schools will provide education from pre-primary to II PUC under one roof. However, smaller schools within five to six km radius will be merged with magnet schools with up to 1,200 students selected, based on enrolment, location, and infrastructure.

Under the pilot project, the schools to be merged at Honganuru are: LPS in Hodike Hosahalli village with 77 students, LPS in Kanni Doddi with 82 students, HPS in Ammalli Doddi with 31 students, HPS Santhe Mogenahalli with 100 students, LPS in Mogenahalli Doddi with 20 students, LPS in Sunnaghatta with 80 students, and HPS in Channanke Gowdana Doddi with two students.

Activists argue that this would lead to limited access to education for poor people in rural areas. FILE PHOTO

The Block Education Officer (BEO), Channapatna, has issued a circular in this regard and has instructed the officials to list and certify all the physical documents, teaching aids, furniture and all the school materials in the schools to be merged and hand them over to KPS Honganuru.

"Steps should be taken to issue the Transfer Certificates (TCs) of these school children. Transport arrangements have already been made for the convenience of school children and appropriate steps should be taken to ensure that children get transport facilities at the specified time," reads the circular. The Deputy Director of Public Instruction (DDPI), Bengaluru South District, visited these schools and discussed with the headmasters and SDMC presidents, members, and parents. He also instructed the teachers to convince the parents about this.

Opposition to merger
Educationists and student organisations have expressed strong opposition to this.

Educationist V.P. Niranjanaradhya said, "This move by the government is a conspiracy to close government schools. The National Education Policy (NEP-2020) mainly proposes the merger of schools and the start of cluster schools. As part of this, the previous BJP government had proposed the merger of 13,800 schools in 2022. However, the State government is now planning to merge 25,000 government schools by starting 800 KPS. Closing schools on such a large scale means implementing the NEP in the State. It is ridiculous that the State government, which is defying the NEP and going to implement the State Education Policy, is again continuing the elements of the NEP."

Ajay Kamath, State secretary of AIDSO, said, "The government had earlier, under public pressure and after widespread protests, promised not to close or merge any government school. However, by introducing the KPS, the government is once again attempting to centralise resources and dismantle small and rural schools, thereby weakening the existing government school network. This will inevitably lead to loss of access to nearby neighbourhood schools for children from poor and rural backgrounds, especially among girl students."

Immune cells primed for rheumatoid arthritis years before symptoms appear

A study in which researchers mapped the hidden preclinical evolution of rheumatoid arthritis at the molecular level could lead to the next leap in patient outcomes.; in the future, clinicians could potentially intervene early before joints sustain painful, and often crippling, irreversible damage

Manjeera Gowravaram

Rheumatoid arthritis usually occurs between the ages of 30 and 60, and women are three times more likely to develop it than men. Representative image. GETTY /ISTOCK PHOTO

For millions worldwide, waking up with stiff, aching fingers that take hours to loosen is a daily battle – one waged by their own immune system. This is rheumatoid arthritis, a condition where the body's defences mistakenly attack the joints they're meant to protect.

Currently affecting about 18 million people worldwide, the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study projected an alarming 80% rise in rheumatoid arthritis cases over the next 30 years.

Rheumatoid arthritis often strikes between the ages 30 and 60, and women are three times more likely to develop it than men. Scientists still don't know exactly why, but genetics, hormones, and environmental triggers like smoking or certain infections all appear to play a role.

While modern therapies have considerably improved patients' quality of life, most patients are diagnosed only after the immune disruption has reached an advanced stage. The condition can affect the joints as well as the lungs, the heart, eyes, skin, and many other organs. Chronic inflammation increases the risk of heart disease and causes fatigue, fever, and depression.

A new study in *Science Translational Medicine*, in which researchers mapped the hidden preclinical evolution of rheumatoid arthritis at the molecular level, could lead to the next leap in patient outcomes. The study has revealed that the immune cells are primed to become troublesome years before the first symptoms appear. In future, therefore, clinicians could potentially intervene early before joints are damaged.

Silent stage

One of the earliest warning signs of RA is the presence of anticitrullinated protein antibodies (ACPAs). These antibodies can appear in blood tests three to five years before the first clinical signs of arthritis. People who test positive for these antibodies but have no symptoms are labelled "at-risk individuals," a definition adopted by clinical trials such as APIPPRA.

Not everyone in this group will develop RA. Roughly a third progress to the disease, while the rest remain symptom-free.

"Because they don't have symptoms, it's difficult to identify them early on," Neha Singh, a rheumatologist at the University of California, Los Angeles, said. "You don't want to treat everyone unnecessarily and risk side effects, but you also don't want to miss early intervention opportunities."

That uncertainty, who will progress and who won't, remains a challenge. The new study set out to understand what tips the balance.

Researchers recruited 45 ACPA-positive at-risk individuals without symptoms, 11 patients with early-stage disease, and 38 healthy individuals. Over 18 months, 16 participants developed clinical rheumatoid arthritis, which the researchers named "converters". The team then compared immune profiles across all groups.

Using multi-omic approaches to examine plasma proteins, single-cell RNA sequencing, and chromatin accessibility, the study created a detailed map of how the immune system shifts from healthy to autoimmune.

One of the evident findings was that systemic inflammation is already present in the at-risk stage, even in people who feel healthy. Compared with controls, these individuals had higher levels of several inflammatory proteins such as CXCL3, CXCL5, and CXCL13, all chemokines that guide immune cells to inflamed tissue.

Importantly, these signals appeared in both those who later developed RA and those who didn't, showing that "silent" immune activation preceded arthritis.

Primed state

The study paid particular attention to T cells and B cells, two major players in adaptive immunity. Naïve T cells, which are usually inactive until they encounter a new antigen, showed gene signatures indicating that they were already predisposed to activation. Epigenetic analysis revealed that DNA regions linked to the NFAT-calcium signalling pathway, a key driver of T cell activity, were more accessible in these individuals.

Naïve B cells expressed early signs of switching towards antibody types associated with inflammatory responses, particularly IgG3. In functional tests, B cells from at-risk individuals secreted higher levels of molecules such as interleukin-6 and RANKL after stimulation, pointing to a readiness to drive inflammation.

According to Dr. Singh, this finding confirms what researchers have suspected for some time.

"They showed that inflammation and immune changes are already happening before the final stage of joint pain. Once pain begins, we know clinical rheumatoid arthritis has set in. But this study shows changes even earlier—in that subclinical phase."

One of the earliest warning signs is the presence of ACPAs. These antibodies can appear in blood tests three to five years before the first clinical signs of arthritis. People who test positive for these antibodies but have no symptoms are labelled at-risk individuals

Mohini Gray, a rheumatologist at the University of Edinburgh, said, "The data support the idea that immune cells are primed during the pre-arthritic period. RA often begins years before symptoms, so the findings aren't surprising."

However, Dr. Singh cautioned, "It's hard to say if this priming is causal or just correlational. In genetically susceptible individuals, a citrullinated protein may be presented as foreign, triggering T and B cells. The study shows this: a rise in certain T and B cell populations."

For the individuals who did go on to develop RA during the study, the immune system showed clear warning signs. A group of T cells that normally help coordinate immune responses began to grow in number. Instead of protecting the body, they seemed to encourage B cells to make harmful antibodies. The B cells themselves also changed, taking on unusual forms linked to long-term autoimmune activity. When arthritis symptoms finally appeared, another shift occurred: inflammatory cells called monocytes became very active, releasing powerful molecules like TNF and IL-1B. These changes spilled into the joints, driving the painful swelling and damage seen in RA.

The researchers also searched for genetic activity patterns to separate "converters" from "non-converters." Only minor differences appeared, likely due to patient variability and the study's limited size.

One of the most clinically relevant findings was that the gene signatures observed in "converters" resembled the immune changes reversed by abatacept, a drug that blocks T cell co-stimulation. By contrast, they did not overlap with the effects of TNF inhibitors, which are standard treatments once RA is established.

The researchers suggest that early intervention targeting T cell activation, rather than late-stage inflammation, could delay or prevent disease onset.

New avenues for intervention

"Abatacept, a CTLA4-Ig fusion protein, has already been tested in at-risk individuals," said Dr. Singh. "These findings fit with that, adding to what we know, but don't change clinical management yet."

As multi-omic technologies continue to drop in cost, their use in early disease detection and prevention is becoming increasingly feasible. A similar strategy is already being applied in type 1 diabetes. In 2022, the FDA approved teplizumab, an anti-CD3 monoclonal antibody, as the treatment shown to delay the onset of type 1 diabetes in high-risk individuals. This success points to the possibility of applying comparable approaches in rheumatoid arthritis.

Beyond the specific findings, the researchers have made their dataset publicly available through an interactive online portal. This will allow other scientists to explore the detailed profiles of immune cells and plasma proteins at various stages of RA progression. The hope is that such resources can accelerate discovery not just for RA, but for other autoimmune conditions such as lupus, type 1 diabetes, and multiple sclerosis, where preclinical changes precede symptoms.

(Manjeera Gowravaram has a PhD in RNA biochemistry and works as a freelance science writer. gmanjeera@gmail.com)

Japan Ground Self-Defense Force sets up a box trap to capture bears in Kazuno, Japan, on November 5, 2025. AP

Japan battles spike in bear attacks

Agence France Presse

The sense of fear is palpable in parts of northern Japan, where some locals have fastened bells to their bags hoping the noise will keep bears away, while signs warn people to be on guard.

The animals have killed a record 13 people across the country since April, with a steady flow of reports of bears entering homes, roaming near schools, and rampaging in supermarkets.

The number of fatalities this year is double the previous record of 2023-2024, with five months of the fiscal year still to go. Official data show the number of wounded is also on course to be a record, tallying over 100 people in the six months to September.

Scientists say the surge in attacks is being driven by a fast-growing bear population combined with this year's bad acorn harvest, leaving some mountains "overcrowded" with hungry bears.

Troops have been deployed to provide logistical help for trapping and hunting bears, while riot police will be allowed to use rifles to shoot the animals, which can weigh half a tonne and outrun a human.

The victims include a 67-year-old man in Iwate, whose body was found outside his home, with animal bite marks and scars. Hunters were called to the scene and shot a bear near the house.

Also in Iwate, a 60-year-old man is thought to have been attacked while cleaning an outdoor bath at a remote hot spring resort. His body was discovered in nearby woods.

A major issue is the expanding bear population, which is growing fast due to an abundance of food – including acorns, deer, and boars – under the influence of a warming climate, experts say. Japan's brown bear population has doubled in three decades and now stands at around 12,000, according to a recent government report.

Steady rural depopulation due to a chronically low birthrate and young people moving to cities has also reduced the human presence at the edges of forests and mountains, blurring the traditional boundaries between people and bears

"The size of the bear population has gone beyond the capacity of the mountains to hold them," Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute researcher Naoki Ohnishi said.

Although rising temperatures have led to more frequent bumper crops of acorns, the nuts still produce good and bad harvests every two to five years as part of their normal cycle.

While most bears still stay in the mountains, recent bad harvests have led some to wander into towns to look for food, said Shinsuke Koike, professor at the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology.

With exposure to humans, cubs become less fearful and develop a taste for farmed produce and common fruits such as persimmon, Koike added.

Steady rural depopulation due to a chronically low birthrate and young people moving to cities has also reduced the human presence at the edges of forests and mountains, blurring the traditional boundaries between people and bears.

"Thorough culling" to reduce the number of bears is the only effective way to reduce the risk for local people, Ohnishi said.

The government last year added bears to the list of animals subject to population control, reversing protection that had helped bears thrive. But rural resources are stretched thin and the number of hunters is less than half of what it was in 1980.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Kindness in the animal kingdom

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1
Individuals of this nocturnal flying mammal sometimes return from a night hunt and share a blood meal by mouth with a roost-mate that's failed to feed. Name this mammal, which "donates" food in this way to protect its fellow members and build lasting social bonds?

QUESTION 2
Which small desert-dwelling carnivore lives in family groups on the African savannah, where some stand upright on watch and others mind the pups underground while other relatives forage Name this animal? Members of these groups also rotate the roles so everyone can also eat.

QUESTION 3
Name the highly social marine mammals that travel in pods and communicate with whistles and clicks, sometimes even addressing individuals by unique signature calls. Members of this species have also been seen supporting an injured companion at the surface with their bodies so it can breathe between waves?

QUESTION 4
On the coldest Antarctic nights, adult members of this bird gather with chicks in big crèches while the grown-ups take turns to move from the windy edge to the warmer center. Name this species, which also uses organised huddling to help many young survive before the parents return from the sea.

Question 5
Some huge ocean migrants with long, white-edged flippers have been filmed charging toward hunting orcas and breaking up attacks on seal or gray whale calves. Which particular singing species intervenes the most often in this way, even when the threatened baby isn't its own?

Answers to November 6 quiz:
1. Rotating stellar remnant that experiences starquakes – **Ans: Magnetar**
2. Small, rocky objects free of any star, spotted with microlensing – **Ans: Rogue planets**
3. Stars flung from galactic centres at extreme speeds – **Ans: Hypervelocity stars**
4. Faint, circular structures around distant galaxies – **Ans: Odd radio circles**
5. Hypothetical star made of protons' constituent particles – **Ans: Quark star**
Visual: **Hoag's object**
First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Anmol Agrawal | Sadhan Kumar Panda

Visual: Name these ants, famed for their size, their termite-feeding behaviour, and for carrying injured mates back from termite nests. ETF89 (CC BY-SA)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

GBA Chief Commissioner inspects ongoing infrastructure work in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), inspected the Hennur-Bagalur Road white-topping work, J.C. Road white-topping, and the newly constructed Hoskerehalli flyover, on Tuesday night.

Approximately 5 km of the Hennur-Bagalur Road in the East City Corporation limits was being white-topped. Of this, one km on one side and 600 metres on the other have been completed. Mr. Rao has set a 25-day deadline to complete another 1.2-km stretch.

Traffic will be restricted on a 1.2-km portion from Poorna Prajna School to Gubbi Cross, allowing two-way movement on the remaining half. Similar phased restrictions of 1km to 1.5km segments will be implemented, as approved by the traffic police.

M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner, GBA

To prevent congestion during the work, the Chief Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioner of Police (North Traffic) to deploy Home Guards to ensure that no vehicle was parked along the work zones, and that traffic flow was managed efficiently.

Mass cleanliness drive
Mr. Rao instructed that a mass cleanliness drive be undertaken along high-density corridor roads to remove waste, debris, and silt from footpaths. "Jet sprays are to be used for thorough cleaning, and continuous maintenance of cleanliness must be ensured," he said.

Rroad repairs
In the Bengaluru West City Corporation limits, the Chief Commissioner inspected pothole repair work near Peenya, Basaveshwara Bus Stand. He directed engineers to ensure that repairs meet quality standards.

In the North City Corporation limits, he inspected asphalting work on Subroto Mukherjee Road. He instructed officials to maintain quality by properly rolling the road surface before reopening it to traffic.

J.C. Road
The white-topping work on the 1-km stretch from Minerva Circle to Town Hall is under way. The work on half of the road has been completed and opened to traffic while the remaining 250 metres would be finished within four days. Mr. Rao directed officials to ensure timely completion of the work.

Parking spaces
In a separate meeting on Wednesday, Mr. Rao instructed officials to identify and prepare a list of designated parking spaces within the limits of all five City Corporations under the GBA.

Mr. Rao also asked the officials to closely monitor the ongoing works undertaken by the B-SMILE under the Sancharayukta Scheme. These include construction of link roads and development of stretches alongside storm-water drains to improve neighborhood connectivity and traffic movement.

Five years on, Hosakerehalli overpass to open by the weekend, trials begin

The 400-metre project, which began in August 2020 at a cost of ₹30 crore and is often dubbed the 'brother' of the Ejipura flyover, was originally scheduled for completion in 2022

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Traffic moving on the newly constructed Hosakerehalli Flyover, on Outer Ring Road, near NICE road junction, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hosakerehalli Flyover, part of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) in southwestern Bengaluru, finally opened for a preliminary trial run on Tuesday, five years after construction began.

Commercial shops and establishments along the 400-metre stretch heaved a sigh of relief, not because traffic has eased, but because they are finally freed from the chaos that plagued the area for half a decade. As the project dragged on, service lanes on either side bore the brunt, with all vehicles diverted onto these narrow roads. This caused daily problems for businesses along the way. Now, with traffic moving over the flyover, the burden on these lanes will reduce, offering some respite from relentless honking and pollution.

The project, which began in August 2020 at a cost of ₹30 crore, and is often dubbed the 'brother' of the Ejipura Flyover, was originally scheduled for completion in 2022. However, it soon became mired in legal and political entanglements, according to civic officials. The actual reason for the delay remains shrouded in mystery.

The project aimed to expand road capacity at this particular choke point to accommodate more vehicles. Automobiles taking a right at Goraguntepalya from Tumakuru Road in northern Bengaluru can travel signal-free along the ORR up to Ittamadu Junction in the south. Vehicles from Mysuru Road heading toward South Bengaluru and beyond also use this route. Thus, the stretch serves as a crucial link for commuters from the city's north and west heading southward. "With commuters from two major stretches converging at this junction, where an educational institution is also located, major disruptions were common. To handle the increasing traffic, this flyover became necessary," explained a police officer from the Banashankari Police Station.

Big jump in road users
However, commuters argued that over the past five years, the number of vehicles using the stretch has increased significantly, undermining the flyover's original purpose.

"Now, instead of easing traffic here, the bottleneck will shift to the Ittamadu Junction, where there's another flyover. After that, vehicles will again face a signal, and congestion will begin there," said Prasanna Bhat, a regular commuter.

Gopal M. Byakod, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), South, however, believed the new stretch would bring some relief. "The Kere Kodi Road is a major stretch, and earlier, vehicles towards Ittamadu had to move far ahead to take a U-turn to access it. Now, with the new underpass, crisscrossing on the ORR will reduce, easing traffic to an extent," he told *The Hindu*.

According to a civic official, all major works have been completed, except for road markings and signage, which are expected to be finished within the next three days. If all goes as planned, the short flyover would be officially inaugurated this weekend.

However, ongoing white-topping work on 80 Feet Road means commuters would still face delays for a few more months.

2026 deadline for NPKL works

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Days after the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Karnataka (RERA-K) declared Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) a "promoter" and directed the agency to register Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, BDA issued a public notice on November 11 promising to finish all developmental works in the layout by 2026. The BDA has claimed that development work in 2,800 acres (76%) in the NPKL has already been completed.

The BDA is yet to get possession of 1,064 acres of land notified for the NPKL as it is still under litigation. "Development works in these lands will be done as and when the BDA gets possession, with completion intended by October 2026," the BDA said.

The BDA has also announced that it is conducting weekly progress review meetings of the NPKL works every Wednesday at 3 p.m. in the Board Room, and interested site allottees can attend these meetings by registering via the BDA helpline: 94831 66622.

BDA allots alternative sites to 784 Arkavathy Layout allottees in NPKL

The Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout developed by the Bangalore Development Authority and located in the Kengeri neighborhood in the southwestern part of Bengaluru city, on Wednesday.
K. MURALI KUMAR K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has finally allotted alternative sites to 784 allottees of Arkavathy Layout, who were not able to get possession of their sites as the lands on which they were, were denotified in the Re-Do scheme in July 2014 in the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL).

The BDA has notified 2,750 acres of land in 16 villages in 2004 to form the Arkavathy Layout, and sites were allotted in 2006. However, following several denotifications and litigations, the High Court framed a six-point guideline to drop land parcels from acquisition. In 2014, the BDA came out with a Re-Do scheme eventually dropping 983.33 acres, which is now being probed by the Justice K.N. Keshavanarayana Committee.

Allottees whose sites were in these lands that were dropped from the Arkavathy scheme have been running from pillar to post to get possession of their sites after paying up the full amount. Many have also been waging decade-long legal battles and paying property tax for sites they didn't have for two decades.

Of them, 755 allottees and 29 revenue site owners of the Surabhi Seva Sangha Layout were allotted alternative sites in the NPKL through a computerised randomisation process by BDA Chairman N.A. Haris on Monday. These allottees have to again pay registration fee and get the new sites allotted, the BDA sources said.

While the BDA officials claimed most of these 784 allottees had consented to take alternative sites in the NPKL, not all of them are happy. One of those who has been allotted an alternative site on Monday said that he was not going to accept an alternative site in the NPKL. Meanwhile, 384 allottees have litigation pending and these petitions are clubbed before the Justice K.N. Keshava Narayana Commission and is yet to be decided.

Student harassed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An 18-year-old college student was allegedly harassed by an unidentified man near CMH Signal in Indiranagar on Monday.

This is the second such incident after a 33-year-old woman, a resident of Domlur, who was walking her pet dog, was sexually harassed when the accused dressed in shorts followed her and called out, 'Madam'. When she turned around, he exposed himself and made sexual gestures last Monday. According to the complaint filed at the Indiranagar Police Station, the incident took place around 2.50 p.m. when the victim, a first-year BCA student, was returning home after attending college in Halasuru. The Indiranagar police have registered a case under Section 75 (sexual harassment) under the BNS.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, NOV. 13		
RISE	06:17	SET 17:51
RISE	00:40	SET 13:25
FRIDAY, NOV. 14		
RISE	06:18	SET 17:50
RISE	01:30	SET 14:01
SATURDAY, NOV. 15		
RISE	06:18	SET 17:50
RISE	02:16	SET 14:36

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	22
Mysuru	30	19
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be slight cool. Day will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Amount sanctioned for the Ferozepur-Patti rail link project

764 In ₹ crore. The Ministry of Railways has sanctioned a 25.72 km Ferozepur-Patti rail link project serving as a link between the Malwa and Majha regions of Punjab with an outlay of ₹764 crore, Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu said. The project was passed on October 27. PTI

Enumeration forms distributed in Phase II of the SIR

37 crore. More than 37 crore or 72.66% of enumeration forms have been distributed to electors in 12 States and UT territories so far as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) being undertaken by the Election Commission. The voters list clean-up will cover nearly 51 crore electors. PTI

Number of migrants presumed dead after boat capsized off Libya

42 Seven survivors have been located after the vessel's engine failed in high waves at around dawn on November 3, several hours after it departed Zuwara, a coastal city in northwestern Libya, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said. AFP

Ukrainian waterways that need de-mining as per the UN

13,500 square km. The United Nations said that around 13,500 square kilometres of Ukraine's lakes, rivers and coastlines are potentially contaminated with mines and explosives after the nearly four-year Russian invasion. PTI

Number of locations linked to banned org. raided by J&K police

500 The police intensified its crackdown on the terror ecosystem in Kashmir, carrying out raids at around 500 locations linked to terrorist associates, and persons affiliated with banned organisations. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Can lawyers break client confidentiality?

Is the counsel between a lawyer and client a privileged communication? Which are the three circumstances in which a lawyer can communicate what his client has said? Why is safeguarding this evidentiary privilege important? Is a lawyer a constitutional actor?

EXPLAINER

Kartikey Singh
Mukula Sharma

The story so far:
On October 31, the Supreme Court affirmed the indispensable role of advocates in a constitutional democracy. A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) B. R. Gavai, and Justices K. Vinod Chandran and N. V. Anjaria ruled that a lawyer cannot be summoned merely to disclose what a client has communicated, except where legal advice is used to commit or conceal a crime. The *suo motu* proceedings arose from a notice issued to an advocate by the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad, under Section 179 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS), demanding his appearance "to know true details of the facts and circumstances" in a criminal case in which he was a defence counsel.

GETTY IMAGES

What are privileged communications?
Privileged communications refer to confidential exchanges between certain protected relationships, such as attorney-client and spousal, that the law shields from being disclosed or compelled as evidence in court. The underlying principle is to promote honesty and trust, thereby reinforcing justice and ethical responsibility. The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023, outlines these protections in Sections 128 to 134.

Notably, Section 128 protects 'marital communications', preventing either spouse from being compelled, or even permitted, to disclose any communication made 'during' marriage, even after its dissolution, without the consent of the person who made it, except in cases where one is prosecuted for a crime against the other or in suits between them. Likewise, Section 129 bars the release of unpublished official records relating to affairs of State without departmental approval in order to safeguard national interest. Further, the advocate-client privilege under Section 132 prohibits advocates from revealing professional communications.

What did the SC state?
The top court's judgment is a concrete assertion that when the State intrudes into the lawyer-client relationship, it endangers the citizen's right to equitable representation and the justice system's structural integrity of a fair trial and rule of law. Section 132 of the BSA prohibits an advocate from disclosing any communication made to him in the course of professional engagement, even after employment has ceased, except in three circumstances: (1) if the client consents to it; (2) the communication pertains to illegal purposes; (3) the advocate observes criminal activity being carried out during the employment.

Although, the privilege belongs to the client, an accused or litigant, its enforcement depends on the lawyer's silence. This silence has long shielded not just the powerful but also those with no power such as women reporting sexual violence, accident victims negotiating hostile insurers, and the families of those lost to custodial excesses. In a justice system where about 3.9 lakh citizens are undertrials, this privilege is what keeps the promise of a fair defence alive.

It's to safeguard this evidentiary privilege that the top court decided that an investigating/prosecuting agency or the police cannot directly summon a lawyer merely for appearing or advising in a case, unless there exists material showing that the summons falls within the exceptions of Section 132.

Moreover, by linking Section 132's protection to Article 20(3)'s guarantee against self-incrimination, the judgment constitutionalises the privilege, which is a key element of a lawyer's function. If a citizen cannot be compelled to confess, the State cannot achieve the same end indirectly by coercing the citizen's lawyer to disclose confidential communication.

What about a lawyer's role?
Through the verdict, the SC positions the advocate not as a private agent but as a 'constitutional actor', essential to the survival of the constitutional architecture of legal representation. This distinction matters because professional privilege is neither a perk for lawyers nor a shield that places them above the law. It is a safeguard for citizens. The SC makes that explicit: the privilege "ensures that no prejudice is caused to the accused whom the lawyer represents." When the State summons a lawyer to divulge information about his client, it converts the advocate into an involuntary witness – collapsing the distance between defence and prosecution. The verdict rightly calls such acts a "blatant breach of the rule against non-disclosure," one that undermines both Article 21's guarantee of a fair defence and the constitutional promise of equality before law under Article 14.

Why is the verdict important?
This ruling indirectly strengthens the right to effective legal representation, a right the SC has long read into Article 21 and Article 22(1). The SC cited *M.H. Hoskot versus State of Maharashtra* (1978) and *Hussainara Khatoon versus State of Bihar* (1980), reminding that liberty without counsel is liberty in theory. At a time when investigating agencies routinely summon journalists, tax consultants, and even lawyers to "assist" investigations, the judgment restores institutional sobriety. It reminds the executive that investigative power is not unbounded. Section 179 of the BNSS empowers the police to summon witnesses, but that power stops at the lawyer's door when 'professional confidence' is at stake.

Kartikey Singh and Mukula Sharma are lawyers based in New Delhi.

THE GIST

- Privileged communications refer to confidential exchanges between certain protected relationships, such as attorney-client and spousal, that the law shields from being disclosed or compelled as evidence in court.
- When the State intrudes into the lawyer-client relationship, it endangers the citizen's right to equitable representation and the justice system's structural integrity of a fair trial and rule of law.
- Through the verdict the SC positions the advocate not as a private agent but as a 'constitutional actor', essential to the survival of the constitutional architecture of legal representation.

Why does India's road safety system keep failing?

How do poorly constructed roads and infrastructure lead to road crashes?

Piyush Tewari

The story so far:
On November 10, the Supreme Court took cognisance of two mass-casualty road crashes in Phalodi, Rajasthan (14 killed) and NH 163, Telangana (19 killed). More than 1.7 lakh lives were lost in 2023 alone due to road crashes.

What are the problems in licensing?
Licensing and training need to be the first line of defence against crashes, not just an administrative formality. The driver licensing system is meant to be a filtration process, determining who is fit to operate a vehicle and who is not. But, across much of India, driving licences can be obtained without formal training. Driving tests are often reduced to perfunctory turns on small test tracks. For commercial drivers, whose vehicles can weigh more than 15 tonnes and carry dozens of passengers, there is no structured, standardised safety training. And once a licence is issued, few checks are carried out to assess a driver's continuing skill, physical fitness, or mental alertness. Heavily fatigued drivers – some with compromised vision or chronic illness – routinely operate heavy vehicles carrying unsuspecting passengers, with no mechanism to detect or restrict them.

What is the role of enforcement?
Speeding, overloading, lane violations, and driving under the influence remain among the top causes of fatal crashes. Enforcement against these, however, continue to rely heavily on resource-constrained and unskilled manual policing, making it inconsistent and susceptible to both human error and discretion. Even where technology exists – such as automated cameras and digital challan systems – coverage is limited, data integration is weak, and penalties are often not recovered. The Supreme Court has repeatedly emphasised the need for electronic enforcement standards and technology-based deterrence. But adoption remains patchy across States.

What about weak infrastructure?
From poorly banked curves and no crash barriers to inadequate illumination and missing rest areas that force heavy vehicles to park on the highways, the physical environment of India's highways and urban roads often turns minor mistakes into fatal outcomes. Many State and national highways were designed decades ago for speed and throughput, not safety. The result has given way to 'unforgiving roads' – corridors where a moment's lapse can mean disaster. Maintenance gaps such as broken dividers, exposed concrete structures, unmarked construction zones, and encroachments are common. In urban areas, pedestrian infrastructure remains minimal or absent, leaving those on foot to compete with heavy vehicles for space.

Evidence from pilot projects show that design-led interventions can reverse this trend. On the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, for instance, evidence-based engineering and enforcement changes under the Zero Fatality Corridor programme have cut crash deaths by more than half.

How can trauma care be improved?
For many victims of road crashes in India, survival depends not on the impact itself, but on what happens in the critical hour that follows. Ambulance networks vary widely in availability and efficiency across the country. In rural areas, delays in decisive care can stretch beyond an hour; even in cities, victims are often extracted by bystanders or the police without proper equipment and little to no medical support. Facilities closest to crash sites often lack trauma specialists, blood banks, or basic resuscitation facilities. A proposed Right to Trauma Care law could mandate time-bound emergency response standards and a coordinated trauma network.

Moreover, licensing, infrastructure, and trauma care are treated as separate silos managed by different departments. Safety can only be achieved when they function as one, reinforced by accountability and coordination.

Piyush Tewari is the Founder and CEO of SaveLIFE Foundation.

THE GIST

- Licensing and training need to be the first line of defence against accidents, not just an administrative formality.
- Speeding, overloading, lane violations, and driving under the influence remain among the top causes of fatal crashes.
- For many victims of road crashes in India, survival depends not on the impact itself, but on what happens in the critical hour that follows.

Bihar man arrested for hacking mobile phones of actors Upendra and Priyanka

Upendra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police have arrested a 25-year-old man from Bihar for allegedly hacking the mobile phones of Kannada actor Upendra, his wife and actor Priyanka Upendra, and their manager, and cheating several people of lakhs of rupees through cyber fraud.

The accused has been identified as Vikas Kumar, a resident of Dashrathpur in Bihar.

A police team which went to Bihar found 150 youngsters in the area engaged in cyber fraud

According to the Sadashivanagar police, on September 15, Priyanka Upendra received a suspicious link on her mobile phone. Since she had ordered a few items online, she clicked on the link after the sender insisted her to share an OTP. Soon after, her WhatsApp account was hacked. The hackers then messaged several contacts from her phone, claiming she was in an emergency and urgently needed money. Many, including close friends and associates, transferred around ₹55,000 each to the account shared by the fraudsters.

When Priyanka realised that her phone was compromised, she tried calling her husband Upendra and their manager only to find out that their phones too had been hacked.

Even her son reportedly transferred ₹50,000, thinking his mother was in trouble. By the time Priyanka discovered the fraud, the hackers had siphoned off over ₹1.5 lakh from various people. She immediately lodged a complaint at the Sadashivanagar police station.

Digital trail

Acting on the complaint, the police tracked the digital trail and found that the accused were operating from Dashrathpur in Bihar, where several youths were allegedly involved in similar cybercrime activities.

A police team travelled to Bihar and found around 150 youngsters in the area engaged in cyber fraud. The team eventually arrested Vikas Kumar and brought him to Bengaluru.

He was being questioned by the Central Division Cyber Crime Unit and the Sadashivanagar police. The police were trying to trace other members of the racket.

In another case, a 42-year-old man lost over ₹1.29 crore in an online investment scam after coming into contact with woman through a dating app.

Based on the complaint, the North division cybercrime police have registered a case.

'Gadappa' passes away

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chenne Gowda, who essayed the role of 'Gadappa' in award-winning film *Thithi*, passed away in his native Nodekoppalu village in Mandya early on Wednesday. He was 89. Sources said Mr. Chenne Gowda, who had been suffering from asthma and other age-related ailments, had hurt his hip in an accidental fall about a month back.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is to inform that **Sri. Sathish. K S/o Kenchaiah** being absolute owner property bearing Khaneshumari No.229, presently BBMP Katha No.346/312/25, New E PID No. 9899189945, situated at **Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** presently under the limits of BBMP Ward No. 159, measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 50 feet in all measuring 2500 square feet, bounded on the **East by :** Property belongs to Rangappa; **West by:** Property belongs to Appannaiah; **North by :** Road; **South by:** Property belongs to Rangappa; and having applied for financial assistances over the property in the financial intuition of Protium Finance, Basavanagudi Branch, Bengaluru-560 004.

Any person/s / institution/s claiming to have any title interest, charge, lien or minor claims whatsoever over the said property may lodge his/her/their/its claims to the under signed with documentary proof within **07 (Seven) days** of this publication, falling which it will be deemed that no other person/s/institutions have any claim demand, right, interest or title by way of previous sale or agreement to sale or mortgage or objections to finance the said property by my client and my client shall complete process, has if there is no such claim.

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020.
Mob: 9740718436

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby brought to the notice of the general public that our client is investigating the title and also propose to purchase the immovable property which is more fully described in the Schedule mentioned below, hereinafter referred to as **"Said Property"**, from its owner **Mrs. S.S. Sudha,** Wife of Mr. Rajendra Kumar C.M. No. 160, 7th B Main RPC Layout, Bangalore 560 040. Any person/s, other than the Owners, having any right, title, claim and/or interest by way of inheritance, sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, trust, maintenance, license, bequest, agreement, possession, lease, lien, encumbrance or otherwise, in/to the Said Property, should lodge their claim/s with the office of the under undersigned personally, together with complete documentary proof thereof, within **Fourteen (14) Days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it will be presumed that no person/s other than the Owners, have any right, title, claim and/or interest in/to the Said Property and that our client are free to acquire the Said Property from the Owners.

SCHEDULE

Item No. 1
All that piece and parcel of agricultural dry land bearing **Sy. No. 365** measuring **2 Acres** situated at **Sugganahalli Village, Kasabahobli, Ramanagara Taluk and Distrcit** and bounded on :
East by : Property belonging to Huchaiah (Block No. 8), **West by :** Property belonging to Appajaiah (Block No. 85) **North by :** Property belonging to Siddamma (Block No. 9), **South by** : Property belonging to Chikkamma (Block No. 5)

Item No. 2
All that piece and parcel of agricultural dry land bearing **Sy. No. 363 (old No. 199/23)** measuring **2 Acres** situated at **Sugganahalli Village, Kasabahobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District** and bounded on :
East by : Sugganahalli Road (Block No. 22), **West by :** Property belonging to Siddalingamma (Block No. 32), **North by :** Sugganahalli Road, **South by :** Property belonging to Siddalingaiah (Block No. 25)

For and on behalf of our client:
R. Kiran
Partner
VHVK Law Partners
Advocates & Solicitors
No. 3 & 4, Lakeside Residency
No. 4, Annaswamy Mudaliar Road
Bengaluru 560 042 Ph : 9900154370
E-Mail: rkiran@vhvklaw.com
Place: Bengaluru Dated: 13th November 2025

15th ANNIVERSARY

Mr. S. Palaniappan B.Com., FCA.,
(Former President-All Kerala Paper Merchants Association, President-Tamil Sangham, Nagarathar Association, Cochin)
A Fountainhead of Knowledge and always a source of inspiration, Your Strong Leadership, Hard Work, Ethics, Principles and Values will continue to guide us. Your Vision will motivate us forever.

Fondly remembered by
Wife: **Smt. Pappa Palaniappan**
Daughters: **Mrs. Meena Anu** & **Mrs. Meenakshi Kannan**
Son-in-Laws: **Mr. Anu Avirachan**, **Mr. Chinniah Kannan**
Grandson: **Aakarsh Anu Avirachan**
Granddaughter: **Mrinalini Uma Kannan** & All Staffs

PANDIYAN MEENA PAPER COMPANY (EKM) & (CBE)
SRI AYYAPPA PAPER COMPANY PVT. LTD.
SRI VENKATESHWARA PAPER COMPANY SP PAPER CO.
ERNAKULAM | COIMBATORE | TIRUPUR | SIVAKASI

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
GSTIN: 09AACCU2250P1ZZ CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425
Registered office: SUDA Building,7/23 Sec-7,Gomti Nagar Extension,Lucknow-226002
Website: www.upmsc.in E-Mail: gm.scm @upmsc.in Contact No.: 0522-2838102

Ref No- UPMSCL/08/2025/1080 Date-11.11.25
GEM Tender for procurement of Plastic pallets for District Drug Warehouse

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Lucknow invites tenders on GeM Portal from eligible and qualified Bidders to supply Plastic pallets for 40 UPMSCL district drug warehouses. The schedules of Tendering activities are as here under:

S. N.	Description of Item for tender	Equipment Name as on GeM	Tender Reference no	Commencement of Downloading of Tender Document	Date and Time of Pre-Bid meeting	Last Date & Submission of Online Bids	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	Technical Evaluation Result	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	Financial Evaluation Result
1	Plastic Pallet	Poly-Pallets for Bag storage godowns (V2) Conforming to IS 13664 (Q3 Category)	GEM/2025/B/6876972	11.11.25	17.11.25, Monday, Time-04:00 PM in conference hall of UPMSCL HQ, Lucknow.	02-12-2025 18:00:00	02-12-2025 18:30:00	To be declared on GeM Portal	To be declared on GeM Portal	To be declared on GeM Portal

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal &UPMSCL website www.upmsc.in. Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates.

Sd/-
Managing Director, UPMSCL
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA email: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR
e-Procurement Notice for Road Works under MMSY-CMRL
Bid Identification No. NCB-30/RWCKJR/2025-26
No. 4793 / Date : 06.11.2025

1. Name of the Work : **Construction and Maintenance of roads under MMSY-CMRL in the District of Keonjhar.**
2. No. of Work : **04 (Four)** Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure in NIT.
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : As per Annexure in NIT
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure in NIT
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Keonjhar Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Keonjhar Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB-30 / RWCKJR / 2025-26	Dt.12.11.25 at 11:00 A.M.	Dt.26.11.25 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.25.11.25 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.27.11.25 at 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

● Further details can be seen from the website:**www.tendersorissa.gov.in**
O-1392: **Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Keonjhar.**

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION 01/2025

Recruitment for various teaching and non-teaching posts in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on behalf of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) invites online applications from eligible Indian citizens for recruitment to various teaching and non-teaching posts in KVS and NVS on direct basis. The candidates are advised to visit only the official websites of CBSE, KVS and NVS i.e. https://www.cbse.gov.in/, https://kvsangathan.nic.in/ and https://navodaya.gov.in/ respectively for detailed Notification, application procedure and other authentic information related to this recruitment. The portal for online application submission will start from 14th November 2025 and last date of online application submission will be 04th December 2025.

DIRECTOR (CTET)
CBSE
cbc21107/12/0007/2526

Government of Karnataka
Office of The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shivamogga Division, Shivamogga
Territorial Division Office, DC Compund, Shimoga-577201.
phone: 08182-272210 FAX No: 08182-22565 EmailID: dcf.shivamoga@gmail.com
No.: B2/Logging/Auction/M.K.Bailu/CR-18/2025-26 Date: 07.11.2025

Tender Notice Related to e-Auction of Forest Produce

It is hereby informed to the General Public that dates of 02.12.2025 and 03.12.2025 has been fixed to dispose through e-Auction the stock of Timber/Firewood/Billets/Poles at the Government Timber Depot, M.K. Bailu, Agumbe Zone Megaravalli. For the said Auction participation is subject to conditions informed vide the detailed notification of this office No.: B2/Logging/Auction/M.K.Bailu/CR-18/2025-26, Date: 07.11.2025. For further information regarding the e-Auction this office can be contacted during office hours and details regarding the Auction can be obtained by the official website of GoK www.etimber.in www.mstcecommerce.com

Details of Forest Produce kept for e-Auction

Sl. No	Name of Depot	Details of Produce		Lot No.	Approx. Quantity (in M3)	Date and Sessions
1	G. T. D. M.K. Bailu, Agumbe Zone Megaravalli	Acacia	Timber	917	27954=4920.156	02.12.2025 II, III, IV Session & 03.12.2025 I, II, III, IV Session
2		Other family	Timber	56	505=107.372	
3		Other family	Sizes	03	11=0.198	
4		Other family	Sizes	05	19–0.412	
5		Acacia	Poles	17	585 No.	
6		Acacia	Firewood	20	551.100	
7		Acacia	Billets	05	35.900	
			Total	1023		

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shivamogga Division, Shivamogga
DIPR/ksmca/smg/25-26/39/11/1215

BENGALURU NORTH UNIVERSITY
Sri Devaraj Urs Extension, Tamaka, Kolar-563 103.
Web:**www.bnu.karnataka.gov.in** Email:**bnuregistrar@karnataka.gov.in**
No. BNU/ACA/Affin/ /2025-26 Dated: 11.11.2025

Notification

Sub: Inviting Applications for Affiliation for the year 2026-27–reg
Ref: ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂ: ಇಡಿ 212 ಯುಎನ್ ಇ 2024, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.10.2025
Bengaluru North University invites applications (UUCMS-On-Line Application) for various types of affiliation from the affiliated Colleges / Managements situated within the Bengaluru North University jurisdiction viz., Bengaluru Urban District (C.V.Ramannagara, K.R.Puram, Mahadevapura, Pulikeshinagara, Sarvagnanagara Assembly Constituencies.),Bengalururural District (Doddaballapura, Devnahalli And HoskoteVidhanasabha Constituencies), Chikkaballapur and Kolar Districts for the Academic year 2025-26 as prescribed in Sections 59 and 62 of the KSU Act, 2000 and also specified in the K.S.U. (Amendment) Act 2015.

Colleges/Managements have to submit the applications through online **https://uucms.karnataka.gov.in/** and applications will be processed as per the Government Order No. ED 47 UNE 2023 dated: 05-04-2023 and the norms / standards, criteria as stipulated in Government Circular No. ED 384 UNE 2020 dated: 18-02-2022 and order No. ED 29 UNE 2021 dated:12-02-2021/16-02-2021 and UGC (Affiliation of Colleges by Universities) Regulation, 2009. **(1)** Opening New Colleges **(2)** Extension of existing Affiliation **(3)** Continuation of Affiliation **(4)** Permanent Affiliation **(5)** Change/ Addition of subject, Division of faculty, Increase of intake **(6)** Change of Name **(7)** Closure & withdrawal of a College **(8)** Local Inquiry Committee and **(9)** Transfer of Management) **The schedule of date for online application is as follows: (1)** Starting date for online Application: **10.11.2025 (2)** Last date for submission of online application: **30.11.2025 (3)** Last date for submission of Six **(6)** sets of hard copies to the University along with enclosures**: 03.12.2025 (4)** Online website: **https://uucms.karnataka.gov.in/ (5)** RTGS/NEFT/Cash deposit **(6)** Fee paid by the college towards in-eligible courses will not be refunded / adjusted **(7)** For Further details / Clarification, if any please contact9035415764, 9945226666 & 7892087298.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR
Bengaluru North University
Tamaka, Kolar, Karnataka- 563103
DIPR/Kolar/R.O.No:352/KSMCA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023.
Tel: 080-29557021, email: pdksaps@gmail.com
No. KSAPS/PRC/04/2025-26 Dated: 11.11.2025

Invitation for short term tender (Two Cover) (Call-3) through e-Procurement

Short term Tender (Two Cover) (Call-3) are invited for supply of Viral load consumables to 7 NACP and 1 Non NACP Viral load labs under E-Procurement System. Details are available at e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date for submission of tender on or before **24/11/2025 at 5.30pm.**

Sd/- Project Director
DIPR/CP/3762/Zen/2025-26 **Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society, Bengaluru**

KARNATAKA STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
3rd Floor, 5th Stage, M.S. Building, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001
No.:HRC 144 ADM 2025 Date:11.11.2025

BRIEF NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited for 01 post of Registrar in the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission, to be filled temporarily on contract basis from eligible candidates, for a period till the post is duly filled on deputation by the Government or until orders of the Commission. Detailed Notification and application format is published on the website of the Commission **www.kshrc.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for submitting application is **28.11.2025.**

Sd/- Secretary (I/c)
DIPR/CP/JA/3728/2025-26 **Karnataka State Human Rights Commission**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
PUNJAB GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, REHABILITATION AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT (JAGIR BRANCH)
PUNJAB TIRATH YATRA SAMITI

Selection of Private Sector Partner (Operator(s)) for implementation of Mukh Mantri Titarth Yatra Scheme in the State of Punjab in the Cluster's namely Cluster-1- Amritsar and Cluster-3- Ludhiana

Dated: 11th Novermber 2025

Punjab Government Department of Revenue, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management (Jagir Branch), Punjab Tirath Yatra Samiti invites bids from eligible applicants for the Selection of Private Sector Partner (Operator(s)) for implementation of Mukh Mantri Titarth Yatra Scheme in the State of Punjab in the Cluster's namely Cluster-1- Amritsar, Cluster-2- Mohali and Cluster-3- Ludhiana.

RFP Availibility : RFP documents can be downloaded from the portal of https://www.revenue.punjab.gov.in and eproc.punjab.gov.in from 11th November 2025 onwards.

Pre Bid Meeting : 17th November 2025 at 1100 hours
Proposal Due Date : 1st December 2025 upto 1500 hours
Bid Opening date : 1st December 2025 at 1530 hours

For any subsequent corrigendum, addendums and clarifications please refer to the websites mentioned above.

Punjab Tirath Yatra Samiti reserves the right to accept or reject any application and to annul the selection process at any time, without incurring any liability and without assigning any reason thereof.

Secretary Revenue-cum-Chairman,
Executive Committee,
3673/12/2025-26/4885 Punjab Tirath Yatra Samiti

TENDER NOTICE FOR ALLOTMENT OF COUNTER AT SWAD AUR ZAIKA SHOPS AT SAINIK INSTITUTE, ASC CENTRE (SOUTH)

1. Applications are invited from volunteers for the following shops at Sainik Institute Complex, ASC Centre (South)

Ser No	Name of Shops	Name of Food Counter	Eligibility Criteria (Only For)
1.	Swad Aur Zaika	Chinese Food Counter	1. War widow. 2. Wards of Serving Defence personnel, Ex-servicemen & Demised Defence personnel 3. NOK of demised Defence personnel. 4. Ex-servicemen
2.		South Indian Counter	
3.		Chat Counter	
4.		Biryani Counter	
5.		Tandoor Counter	

2. **Required documents as per applicability:-**
2.1. ESM Card.
2.2. Dependent Card.
2.3. Documents issued by Zila Sainik board.
2.4. Aadhar Card, PAN Card of the applicant.
3. **Locality.** Preference will be given to local persons at Bangalore jurisdiction.
4. **Security Depost.** A refundable security deposit of **Rs 25000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only)** will be required against shop allocation, to be deposited in favour of Sainik Institute, ASC Centre (South).
5. Interested applicants are requested to submit their application to the address given below so as to reach on or before 18 Nov 2025 in persons :-
No 2 Training Battalion (Supply)
ASC Centre (South)
Agram Post
Bangalore-560007
6. **Last date of Submission application.** 18 Nov 25.
7. **Tender Opening Date.** 19 Nov 25.
8. **Allocation of Shop.** 29 Nov 25.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	South-1	BWSSB/EE(S-1)/AE/TO/2341/ 2025-26 Date: 10.11.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 73,00,366/- / Rs. 73,100/-	01.12.2025 upto 4.00 PM	03.12.2025 After 4.00 PM
2		BWSSB/EE(S-1)/AE/TO/2342/ 2025-26 Date: 10.11.2025	Rs. 73,58,985/- / Rs. 1,47,200/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(S-1)/AE/TO/2343/ 2025-26 Date: 10.11.2025	Rs. 77,10,188/- / Rs. 1,54,300/-		
4		BWSSB/EE(S-1)/AE/TO/2344/ 2025-26 Date: 10.11.2025 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs. 63,69,859/- / Rs. 69,700/-		
5		BWSSB/EE(S-1)/AE/TO/2345/ 2025-26 Date: 10.11.2025	Rs. 70,86,869/- / Rs. 1,41,800/-		
6		BWSSB/EE(S-1)/AE/TO/2346/ 2025-26 Date: 10.11.2025 (Reserved for Category-II(A))	Rs. 68,28,759/- / Rs. 68,300/-		
7		BWSSB/EE(S-1)/AE/TO/2347/ 2025-26 Date: 10.11.2025 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs. 39,13,640/- / Rs. 39,200/-		
8		BWSSB/EE(S-1)/AE/TO/2348/ 2025-26 Date: 10.11.2025	Rs. 68,20,310/- / Rs. 1,36,500/-		
9		BWSSB/EE(S-1)/AE/TO/2349/ 2025-26 Date: 10.11.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 19,72,427/- / Rs. 24,700/-		
10		BWSSB/EE(S-1)/AE/TO/2350/ 2025-26 Date: 10.11.2025	Rs. 73,20,564/- / Rs. 1,46,500/-		
11		BWSSB/EE(S-1)/AE/TO/2351/ 2025-26 Date: 10.11.2025	Rs. 56,05,511/- / Rs. 1,12,200/-		
12		BWSSB/EE(S-1)/AE/TO/2352/ 2025-26 Date: 10.11.2025	Rs. 77,13,578/- / Rs. 1,54,300/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-1)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/3758/Zen/2025-26

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Towards a better future: A skill training hub at the Pahadpur village in Odisha in 2024. BISWARANJAN ROUT

How grassroots movements and campaigns are shaping India

In a democracy, peoples' aspirations should drive systemic change that boosts equality, education, careers, and economic development. Writers who have worked among the people, from Bela Bhatia to Subroto Bagchi, report on what is happening on the ground and the lessons to be learnt

Soma Basu

There is a heart-warming story about Nunaram Hansda in Subroto Bagchi's book *The Day the Chariot Moved: How India Grows at the Grassroots* (Penguin Business). Born to tribal parents in the interior forests of Simlipal, one of India's largest biospheres in Odisha, his parents sent him to Ashram School (run by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs) as they could not afford to raise him.

Later, Nunaram joined the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Rourkela. He had no money to pay the fees and his teachers had to pool the required amount from their paltry salaries. Today, Nunaram heads the insulin manufacturing line at Biocon. In Bagchi's book, we meet many people like Nunaram, who have achieved success despite the huge economic crisis and odds they face.

Odisha's journey

When Bagchi was called by then Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in 2016 to helm the Skill Development Authority to transform the State, he encountered the ground reality – how governments function and its schemes are implemented and why the leaders among ordinary people keep the world moving but do not write or speak about who they are and what they do. The book, Bagchi says, is a tribute to this grassroots India. With his crossover experience from corporate life in IT to a Cabinet-rank government position, he builds his book on individual stories that highlight the many facets of development, and also what ails and fails the system.

He layers the saga of human development in narratives of achievements, frustrations, yearnings and hope because governments, he says, are characterised by stereotypes of unreasonableness, sloth and arrogance wrapped in corruption and personified by crafty politicians. But lives function because some government servants and people at the grassroots are different and willing to take on the challenges of poverty, unemployment, health, education and infrastructure.

Divided into seven sections, the book details Bagchi's life, his return to his home State after four decades, the stories of the poor and marginalised and how government initiatives are foiled due to inaccessibility, inertia and incompetence. Strategic perspectives that empower the people can change the scenario as Bagchi tries to demonstrate. He travelled 3,000 kms across 30 districts in 30 days to understand the requirements of people who either languished or made it out. His objective: to humanise the development agenda for policy makers and corporate leaders.

Bagchi writes about the projections that blew his mind; a staggering 96% of the entire workforce in India is in the unorganised sector. Even as India is set to become one of the top economies of the world, there is an increasing wage disparity, forced migration, digital divide and receding women participation. Only 2% of the youth population under-30 had received formal skill training while 8% had received informal training though the country is in need of many more skilled workers.

But even amidst widespread disdain, Bagchi came across people like Muni Tigga, born in a tribal village in Nuagan Tehsil, where girls were not sent to school. Despite taunts from the villagers, with her mother's support, Muni worked as a daily wager at a plant 37 km from her home. Later, she enrolled at ITI Bargarh and landed a job as a loco pilot in the Indian Railways. The skilled training she received empowered her enough to earn a respectable identity.

But there are many more families that manage life one day at a time. The need for skill development across the State was seen as a means to human development. It was kept above politics to make Odisha a sandbox of innovation, writes Bagchi. Every new idea such as the Fix (problems), Scale (skill development programmes), Accelerate (establishment of new institutes) strategy caught the imagination of many and produced what Bagchi calls "nano unicorns" – people who had the ability to learn new skills and seize the opportunity.

Conversations on change

Opening conversations on change with the future in mind is also discussed by Bela Bhatia in her book, *India's Forgotten Country: A View From the Margins* (Penguin Viking), shortlisted for the NIF Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay Book Prize 2025. When she worked with Dalits, Adivasis, women, bonded labourers, ethnic and religious minorities and other downtrodden groups living in hamlets, villages and slums, the oppressive forces that ruled and ruined them with brutality revealed itself assertively.

Bhatia's work encapsulates her research on the Naxalite movement, the conflict between the state and Maoists in Bastar, alongside her experiences as a rural activist in Gujarat. The book is a powerful critique of oppressive actions, and Bhatia offers empathetic narratives of life, death, and sufferings covering States such as Bihar, Telangana, Rajasthan, Kashmir and Nagaland. Standing by the marginalised to whom the governments and elites turn a blind eye, Bhatia gives several accounts of caste discrimination, communal massacres, untouchability, bonded labour, hunger, widowhood, armed uprisings and forced displacement. These sensitively expose the predicament of real India.

While the searing book stirs the public conscience, it also serves as an inspiring account of resilience, courage and hope at the grassroots level.

Diverse examples

Anchoring Change: Seventy-Five Years of Grassroots Intervention That Made a Difference by Jayapadma R.V., Neelima Khetan, Vikram Singh Mehta, (Harper Collins India) looks at why we despair more about our inability to realise our full potential as a country and find fault with the leadership, state of our institutions and the economic model. The book tries to answer questions through examples of organisations working with the grassroots since Independence and underlines the need to reflect on the micro successes and the several cases of hugely impactful grassroots interventions that helped steer society in a positive direction.

The authors' idea is to revisit examples of civic action and explore their relevance for the future. It serves two purposes, they say: to shift the conversation from failure to success; and to distil from these successes relevant design principles that might have wide relevance to create an alternative, grassroots-based, sustainable development model.

Sampat Kale's book *Grassroots Development Initiatives in India: Rights Based Approach to Development and Advocacy* (Routledge and Aakar Books) examines the way voluntary organisations engage with development programmes for marginalised sections to empower them and make them independent and self-sufficient.

Another interesting book, *Grassroots Innovation Movements* (Routledge), by Adrian Smith, Mariano Fressoli, Dinesh Abrol, Elisa Arond and Adrian Ely, examines six diverse grassroots innovation movements in India, South America and Europe in dynamic historical contexts and explains why each movement frames innovation and development differently, resulting in a variety of strategies.

These books remind us of the contributions and the neglected questions which grassroots innovation movements identify. They reflect on both progress and the need for further improvement and empowerment.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Renowned Scottish writer Robert Luis Stevenson was born on this day in 1850. Here is a quiz on the author

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
What was the nom-de-plume assumed by Stevenson when he wrote one of his most famous works *Treasure Island*?

QUESTION 2
Which modern day camping equipment does Stevenson claim to have invented with him mentioning it in his book *Travels with a Donkey in the* Cevennes?

QUESTION 3
What was the name Stevenson adopted while spending his final years in an island in Samoa? What does it mean?

QUESTION 4
Which Stevenson novel features the character cabin boy Ransome?

QUESTION 5
Name the crime Stevenson was convicted for as a student.

Visual question:
Name this famous character, depicted by Russel Crowe in the 2017 movie *The Mummy*. Also mention the Stevenson work in which the character appears?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The original name of Marvel Comics. **Ans: Timely Comics**
2. The superhero that Stan Lee made his comic-book debut with. **Ans: Captain America**
3. The first superheroes Lee created with artist Jack Kirby in 1961. **Ans: Fantastic Four**
4. The name of the monthly column written by Stan Lee. **Ans: Stan's Soapbox**
5. Marvel comics' first black superhero. **Ans: Black Panther**
Visual: Identify this superhero. **Ans: Iron Man. He appeared for the first time in 1962**
Early Birds: Arun Kumar Singh| Sukdev Shet| Tito Shiladitya| Sudhir Thapa| Kishan Singh

Language in conversation

Vaishali R. Venkat

"Genie, can you take me to the zoo?"
"Brace yourself, little Moon. Teleport. Jet speed. Vroom. Behold the zoo!"
"Poof! Genie, it's a pig enclosure!" Moon squealed, her laughter bubbling uncontrollably as she pointed at the pigs.
"Moon, are the pigs that funny?"
"Yes, Genie. Pigs always remind me of my old aunt. She's like a pig! And on top of that, she wears lipstick. She often stinks because she sweats profusely."
Genie wagged his finger. "No, Moon! You must never talk about elders like that! It's so disrespectful."
"Sorry, Genie."
"Good girl. You're not 'pigheaded'."
"Genie, I don't have a head like a pig."
"No, Moon. 'Pigheaded' means stubborn, obstinate and refusing to accept different opinions. Also, your lipstick comment reminds me of an English idiom: 'lipstick on a pig'. It means that no matter how much you decorate something bad, it doesn't change its true nature. In other words, making cosmetic changes won't hide its true flaws."
"You're right, Genie! No matter how much 'lipstick you put on a pig', it remains a pig. My aunt puts on a lot of perfume, but she still sweats a lot!"
"Ah, Moon! Your aunt sweating so much makes me think of another pig idiom: 'sweating like a pig'. It means sweating a lot, often from hard work, heat, or nervousness."
"Genie, do pigs really sweat much?"
"It's just an old expression. And if your aunt had bought a good perfume, she wouldn't have stunk! But she probably purchased it like a 'pig in a poke'!"
"A 'pig in a poke'? What's that, Genie?"
"Ah, Moon! That's another English idiom. It means something bought or accepted without checking it first or assessing thoroughly, often leading to poor quality or an unpleasant surprise."
"There are hundreds of pigs in the pigsty... look at the way they're eating!"
"Ah, Moon! Watching all those pigs eating reminds me of another pig idiom: pig out. It means to eat a lot, often greedily or in a messy way, just like these pigs! Example: Don't pig out on the pizza before lunch, Moon!"
"Genie, can animals fly like birds?"
"Ah, little Moon... some animals can fly, bats for instance. They are indeed mammals, but not all animals can fly. Definitely not pigs! That's why we say: 'when pigs fly'. People use this idiom when something is impossible or extremely unlikely to happen. Example: Politicians will always keep their promises when pigs fly."
"Wow, Genie! You have a natural talent for finding good English words."
"Thank you. People say I can find the right words like 'a pig hunting truffles'. Pigs are experts at sniffing out rare truffles hidden deep in the soil. Just like that, I sniff out perfect words!"
"Genie, whatever you teach me feels like a gem to me. I try to share it with my classmate the next day... but she just shrugs and brushes it off like a pebble."
"Then you are 'casting pearls before a swine', Moon. It means giving something valuable, be it knowledge or advice, to someone who doesn't appreciate it."
"Haha... Genie, it's like I'm tossing my precious gems straight to a silly pig! Is that right, Genie?"
"Yes, Moon."

Word of the day

Captious:
tending to find and call attention to faults

Synonyms: faultfinding

Usage: *None of the servers wanted to wait on the captious woman.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/captiouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /'kæpʃəs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

ADVERTISEMENT

UTTAR PRADESH SWEETENS THE DEAL FOR FARMERS

Yogi govt. announces historic ₹30/quintal sugarcane price hike-highest in recent years

"No state or nation can progress by disrespecting its farmers - the true providers of food."

- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

■ Record Payments ■ Zero Pending Dues ■ Higher Crushing Capacity ■ Rising Ethanol Output

The New Era of Confidence for UP's Sugarcane Farmers.

In a landmark move for farmer welfare and rural prosperity, the Yogi Adityanath government has approved a ₹30 per quintal increase in sugarcane prices for the 2025–26 crushing season, setting a historic benchmark in Uttar Pradesh's agricultural economy. Early variety sugarcane will now fetch ₹400 per quintal, while the normal variety will be purchased at ₹390 per quintal, giving farmers an estimated ₹3,000 crore additional income boost.

Farmers at the Heart of Policy

Since 2017, sugarcane farmers in Uttar Pradesh have witnessed a transformative shift, fair prices, timely payments, eradication of middlemen, digital transparency, and sustained expansion of crushing capacity across the state.

"Now farmers reap full rewards of their toil with direct payments, ending middlemen's dominance."

- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

Farmers First: Key Achievements Under Yogi Govt.

Sugarcane payments (2017-2025)
₹2.90 lakh crore

More than previous decade 2007-2017
+₹1.42 lakh crore

Operational Sugar Mills
122 mills

New Mills established
4

Closed mill revived
42

New Investments in sugar sector
₹12,000 cr.

End of Middlemen Start of Digital Governance

Uttar Pradesh is transforming the sugarcane economy with the "Smart Sugarcane Farmer" digital system, a first-of-its-kind reform in India

- ☑ 100% digitized slip issuance
- ☑ Mobile delivery of cane slip
- ☑ Transparent calendar & survey system
- ☑ Direct bank payments

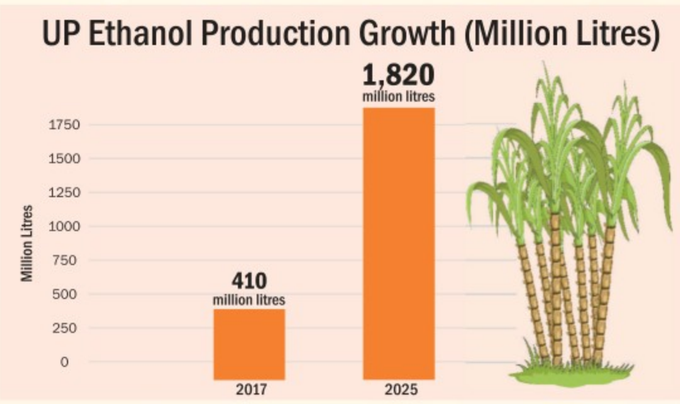
"Technology has ended the era of exploitation. Farmers now receive their rightful earnings directly - without recommendations or intermediaries."

- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

UP Powers India's Ethanol Revolution

Sugarcane to Green Fuel → Farmers to Prosperity → UP #1 in India

Uttar Pradesh has emerged as India's ethanol capital, converting sugarcane into clean fuel and farmer income. Ethanol production in the state has jumped 4.4 times, rising from 410 million litres (2017) to 1,820 million litres (2025). This unprecedented growth has not only strengthened India's clean fuel mission but also boosted rural prosperity.



Under the Yogi government, the sugar - ethanol sector has undergone a complete transformation:

- 12,000 crore fresh investment in distilleries & integrated sugar complexes
- 122 operational sugar mills: 4 new, 6 revived, 42 expanded
- Smart Sugarcane Farmer digital system: acreage registration, slip issuance & payments digitized

"UP today is No. 1 in sugar, sugarcane, and ethanol, credit goes to our hardworking farmers."

- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

With integrated sugar complexes, ethanol distilleries, cogeneration, and CBG plants, UP is not just producing ethanol

UP is powering India's clean energy future.

Crushing Season Kicks Off, Mills in Full Gear

Sugar mills begin operations across Uttar Pradesh, ensuring faster payments and timely wheat sowing

The 2025-26 sugarcane crushing season has officially begun in Uttar Pradesh, marking a strong start to the year for cane farmers.So far, 21 sugar mills have already started crushing, including 1 cooperative and 20 private sector mills, with the remaining units set to follow shortly.

21 Sugar mills already operational

53 Mills issued sugarcane indents

32 Mills set to begin soon

From BIMARU to Benchmark

Farmers' Gratitude, CM's Assurance
On Gopashtami, sugarcane farmers met CM Yogi to express gratitude for the historic price hike

Farmers at the heart of policy

Transforming Uttar Pradesh's sugarcane economy, from exploitation to empowerment

Since 2017, Uttar Pradesh has redefined what it means to be a sugarcane farmer.

The focus has shifted from intermediaries and paperwork to transparency and prosperity. Fair and assured pricing, timely payments, investment-led capacity expansion, and digital governance have placed farmers at the center of policy.

"Now farmers reap full rewards of their toil with direct payments, ending middlemen's dominance."

- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

Building a Future Where Farming Equals Prosperity

■ No exploitation ■ No payment delays ■ No middlemen ■ More income
■ More private investment ■ More mills, more capacity, more opportunities

Uttar Pradesh's sugarcane ecosystem today is not just agricultural it is industrial, financial, and transformational

"Uttar Pradesh today is a land of limitless potential. Global investors are eager to invest here."

- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

From the fields of Uttar Pradesh to the future of India the journey of sugarcane continues to deliver, empower, and transform

A BG-BGE

After SC internal quota, demand emerges for similar structure among STs

Microscopic notified tribal communities, many of which have population in double or triple digits, have sought at least 1% reservation and also a financial package for their development

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Former chairman of Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes C.S. Dwarakanath interacting with participants during a meeting on internal reservation for Scheduled Tribes in Bengaluru on November 11. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Close on the heels of the Karnataka government making a provision for internal quota among 101 Scheduled Castes (SCs) within the larger 17% reservation for them in Karnataka, a demand for internal reservation among the 50 Scheduled Tribes (STs) within the 7% quota has emerged.

Microscopic notified tribal communities, many of which have population in double or triple digits, have come together seeking at least 1% reservation in the 7% quota for STs and also a financial package that could uplift them.

A preliminary meeting on Tuesday, the first-of-its-kind where the demand for internal reservation for STs came up prominently, decided to petition the State government to form a Scheduled Tribes Commission in the State that would enumerate the population, and study social, educational and economic backwardness before recommending internal reservation.

Recently, based on the Supreme Court's August 1, 2024, judgment that allowed sub-classification among the reserved category groups, the State government provided internal reservation for SCs – Madiga and others (6%), Holeya and others (6%), and Lambani/ Korma/ Korcha/Bhovi/microscopic communities (5%).

"The literacy level is poor among these microscopic tribes and because their numbers do not matter in political calculations, they do not get priority. Their representation in bureaucracy is also very poor," said former chairman of Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes C.S. Dwarkanath, who is organising them.

Tuesday's meeting was attended by the Alemari Budakattu Mahasabha, the Adivasi Parishat, the Adivasi Hakki-Pikki Sangha, and the Harini Shikhari Sangha.

"We are planning another round of meetings and a representation backed by data will be submitted to the Chief Minister."

What numbers show

As per the 2011 Census data, the STs form about 42.48 lakh of the State's population. It is currently estimated to be between 45 lakh and 50 lakh of the 6.85 crore population.

The Census data shows that among the STs, only three tribes had population of over 1 lakh.

Valmikis constituted about 33 lakh followed by Gonds and Kolis with about 1.58 lakh and 1.12 lakh, respectively. Thirty-four tribes have population less than 10,000, of which eight tribes had population in double digits and 20 in triple digits.

A lion's share in the reservation has been cornered by the Valmikis over the decades, according to those who are working on the issue. They have also pointed out that the population size of 47 tribes was just around 5 lakh of the total ST population.

Of the STs in Karnataka, Koragas and Jenu Kurubas are classified as primitive tribes.

K. Chavade Lokesh, working president of Karnataka Federation of Nomadic, Semi Nomadic and Denotified Tribes, said that the large number of tribes have been ignored because of the population size and a lack of leadership.

"Social, educational, and economic conditions are similar to that of 49 microscopic nomadic and semi-nomadic communities among Scheduled Castes that have been denied 1% reservation," he said.

Political representation

Advocates of internal reservation say they dominate in the ST reservation of 15 Legislative Assembly and three Parliamentary seats. The pattern in reservation at local bodies is similar, they argue.

State govt. notifies menstrual leave policy with a day's off a month

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Women in the age group of 18 to 52 are eligible to seek menstrual leave. FILE PHOTO

In what brings cheer and relief to the female workforce across Karnataka, the State government on Wednesday notified the menstrual leave policy, allowing one day leave a month, paving the way for its implementation.

Women between 18 and 52 are eligible to seek menstrual leave, and it will be applicable for permanent, contract or outsourced workforce. The policy will be applicable to the workforce employed in establishments registered under the Factories Act, 1948; the Karnataka Shops and Establishments Act, 1961; the Plantation Workers Act 1951; the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, and the Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961.

The Government Order (GO) does not specify anything on leaves for government employees or anganwadi workers or Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs).

An expert committee that deliberated on the policy earlier had recommended six days annually, which the government increased to 12 when it was approved in the Cabinet. In their feedback, four employers have suggested 12 leaves annually.

The GO issued by the Labour Department said that the menstrual leave is being extended considering health aspects, and to increase efficiency, besides increasing female participation in the workforce. As per the conditions imposed in the GO, there will be no provision to carry over the leave to the next month and women are not mandated to provide any medical certificate.

Feedback was received from individuals, organisations and trade unions, among others, of which 56 backed the policy. Twenty six of those who supported the policy were from the management, the GO said.

Welcoming the GO, Divya Biradar, convener, Karnataka Domestic Workers' Union, affiliated to AITUC, said: "However, the government should take immediate measures to formalise the policy. A legislation is stronger than a government order."

She also said that the policy has to be amended to include a vast section of the female workforce engaged in domestic, agricultural, and construction work, apart from scheme workers such as anganwadis and ASHAs.

The fixing of the age limit has also been objected to. A senior executive in a reputed organisation said: "Women would not have menopause before 52 in all cases. The policy should accommodate the interest of those people too."

High Court notice to govt. on SEC's plea on holding elections to gram panchayats

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday directed the State government to file its response on a PIL petition, filed by the State Election Commission (SEC) seeking a direction to the government to take immediate action and issue the final notifications of reservation of seats for 5,950 gram panchayats (GPs), whose terms expire by January 2026.

Observing orally that "this is a serious matter," a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha adjourned further hearing on the petition till December 11.

Stating that the State government, under Section 5(5) of the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayath Raj Act, 1993, has to issue final notification reserving seats in the GPs for holding elections, the SEC has pointed out in the petition that it has written three letters since May reminding the government to issue the final notification to enable the SEC to hold elections.

Pointing out that the government has failed to respond to its letter, the SEC has said in its petition that the respondents [the Chief Secretary and the Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department] have erred and failed in their duty in not taking immediate action to commence and complete the process of reserving seats in each GP despite repeated letters.

₹67 crore sanctioned to Muslim institutions for building halls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has issued orders sanctioning ₹67 crore to 60 Muslim institutions to construct multi-purpose halls to hold cultural and social events.

A Government Order, issued on Tuesday, said that while the amount has been sanctioned, 50% of the amount would be released to take up the works. Seven institutions have received ₹2 crore each, and the remaining 53 have received ₹1 crore each. The money towards the scheme had been allocated in the 2025-2026 Budget, and the funding is to construct multi-purpose halls at the district and taluk-level for minorities.

The money to this scheme will come from the Chief Minister Special Development Plan and Slum/Colony Development Plan in the urban centres.

MLA forgoes allowance for Winter Session

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Janata Dal (Secular) MLA from Gurmitkal Sharanagouda Kandakur has written to the Legislative Assembly Secretariat forgoing his allowances for the Winter Session.

Apart from the TA/DA that he is entitled to, he has said that he would not seek the government accommodation or consume food/ beverages organised by the government. He has sought permission to get food from outside.

The State government is yet to announce the dates of the Winter Session, which is normally held in Belagavi.

Does not benefit NK

Stating that the government spends about ₹25 crore to ₹30 crore on the session, he said that the Winter Session in Belagavi did not benefit North Karnataka. "The State government has not informed the public about the outcome of the last session. It is a waste of time. Though farmers have lost thousands of crores in the recent floods and rainfall, money has not been released yet," Mr. Kandakur said.

Now, Siddaramaiah's camp says CLP decides leadership issue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid speculations over a possible leadership change after completion of the mid-term of the Congress government in Karnataka, some loyalists of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah appear to be bargaining hard for his continuation in the post for the full five years and they have begun claiming that the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) will take a decision on the matter and it will be later endorsed by the party high command.

Sources close to the Chief Minister argue that Mr. Siddaramaiah was elected by the CLP in May 2023 and not selected by the party high command. In case there was demand for a leadership change, once again the CLP would take a decision and the party's top brass would endorse it, they said.

The Congress government would complete its mid-term on November 20.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Basavaraj Rayaraddi, Congress MLA and Economic Adviser to the Chief Minister, said he was confident of Mr. Siddaramaiah completing the full five-year term. The CLP unanimously elected him to the post, and there is no reason to displace him, he said.

A few days ago, Mr. Shivakumar had said that "in the Congress, no decision is taken on numbers" on the leadership change, and the party high command would take a decision on the matter, irrespective of the number of MLAs supporting the Chief Minister.

The loyalists of the Chief Minister, however, contend that the leader must always enjoy the confidence of the party legislators. The leader elected by the CLP would become the Chief Minister, and this was the tradition followed in the Congress, they said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah is expected to visit the national capital on November 15, a day after the Bihar election results, for discussions on his proposal for the Cabinet reshuffle. The Chief Minister has been saying that he would revamp the Cabinet after the party high command clears the proposal.

Mr. Shivakumar has been demanding the top post after the mid-term, as per an informal pact said to be agreed upon during the formation of the government.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mrs. M.K. Kumuda wife of Mr. C. Anand,** residing at No.68, Bangarpete Circle, Kanakanapalya, Kolar-563 101 is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. He has lost/misplaced the Original Sale Deed dated 30-01-2017, document N.KLR-1-09995-2016-17, stored in CD No.KLRD195, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Kolar pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged on 12-11-2025 vide Lost Report No.1898343/2025. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said document, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days** and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original document, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No. I
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal Katha No.966/779, Old No.966/779, Old Property No.15-5-11-11, New Property No.15-5-11-11/1, measuring East to West 7.620015 Mtrs and North to South 10.668021 Mtrs totally 83.6127 square meters situated at **Ward No.15, Bypass Road, 5th Block, Kolar Town,** and bounded on the: **East by :** Property belongs to Kumuda; **West by :** Property belongs to Syed Mujeed Pasha, **North by:** N H 75 Service Road, **South by:** Property bearing Katha No.1111/949/5.

Item No. II
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal Katha No.1111/949/5, Present Property No.15-5-11-11A, measuring East to West 7.620015 Mtrs and North to South 7.620015 Mtrs totally 58.064375 Sq Mtrs situated at **Ward No.15, Kolar Town,** and bounded on the: **East by:** Property belongs to M.K. Kumada; **West by:** Property belongs to Syed Muzeeb Pasha, **North by:** Property No.966/779, **South by:** Property belongs to Aarif.

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020.
Mob: 9740718436

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
HAL Airport Division, 1st Cross, MEG Layout,
Akashnagar, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru - 560048.

No: BECC/EE/HAL/TN/01/2025-26 Date: 12-11-2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Executive Engineer, HAL Airport Division, BECC, Bengaluru invites Item Rate Tenders from eligible Tenderers registered in Bengaluru East City Corporation / CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / any State or Central Government Organization for the Work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Improvements and Developments to Roads and Drains and Other Allied Works in HAL Airport, A. Narayanapura and Vignana Nagara Wards in HAL Airport Division. (G.O. Sl.No. 33, 34, 35) Package-1. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 408.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 6,12,250/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Last Date for Submission of Queries: **19-11-2025 within 3.00 PM. 3)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **19-11-2025 at 3.00 PM. 4)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders: **27-11-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **28-11-2025 at 4.30 PM. 6)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **01-12-2025 at 4.00 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
HAL Airport Division, BECC.

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, K.R. Pura Division,
Old Madras Road, K.R. Pura, Bengaluru-560036.

No. BECC/EE/KRP/TN/01/2025-26 Date: 12-11-2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, K.R. Pura Division, BECC, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BECC invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Comprehensive Development of Roads, drains and other allied works in K.R. Pura and Basavanapura works in K.R. Pura Assembly Constituency under GoK Grants, GO Annexure Sl.No. 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 & 32, for the year 2025-26.
	Amount put to tender (Exclusive of GST) : **Rs. 502.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 7,53,000/-.** Period of Completion : **6 months.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (2)** Last date of submission of queries : **19.11.2025 within 3.00 pm. (3)** Date of Pre-bid meeting : **19.11.2025 at 3.00 pm. (4)** Last date for receipt of tenders : **27.11.2025 upto 4.00 pm. (5)** Date of opening of technical bid : **28.11.2025 at 4.30 pm. (6)** Date of opening of Financial bid: **01.12.2025 at 4.00 pm.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, K.R. Division, Zone-2, BECC

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನೀಸ&ಒಚ (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ವಿಭಾಗ, ವಾವಿನೀಸ, ಆವರಣ, ಯಾದವಗಿರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ/ನೀಸ&ಒಚ(ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ)/ಸ.ಅ/ಟಿಎಸ್–16/687/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.11.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ/ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ KTPP ನಿಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

				ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ಒಳಗೆ	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	KW-1, KW-3 & KW-4	04 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	301.79	12.11.2025	27.11.2025	28.11.2025
	KW-3	02 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	150.00	13.11.2025	20.11.2025	21.11.2025
3	Service Tenders	01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	7.00	12.11.2025	27.11.2025	28.11.2025

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ / ಬದಲಾವಣೆ / ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು ನೀಸ&ಒಚದ (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ವಿಭಾಗ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/1214/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/2025–26 ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

L JOSEPH (60), Retired Senior Supervisor, Despatch Dept, The Hindu, Maraimalai Nagar passed away on 12-11-2025. Address: 53/6, Ganesan Street, Mallika Nagar, Pallavaram, Chennai- 600043. Cont: 90809 07951

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I,VISHAL K S/o Kanakaraju N R/o No–204 A Block Bhuvana Nivath Apartments Harohalli Road Ajjagondahalli Bangalore Rural Karnataka–560087 changed the name of my minor Daughter SHRIJANI to SREEJANY VISHAL aged 11 Years.

I, LAKKAMANI Vasudeva, R/a No.56/05, Old No.340, Seshaiah Naidu Garden, 6th Cross, 4th Main, NS Palya, BTM Layout 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560076 have changed my name to Lakkamani Ranga Rao Vasudeva vide affidavit dt: 12.11.2025 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

Child safety: Seven departments issue joint circular

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

CCTV surveillance has been made mandatory at residential and non-residential schools.

With an aim to curb teen pregnancies, child abuse, and child marriages, seven departments have issued a joint circular asking authorities concerned to initiate a slew of measures.

The government has made CCTV camera surveillance mandatory at both residential and non-residential schools.

The departments of School Education and Literacy, Social Welfare, Health and Family Welfare, Backward Classes Welfare, Minority Welfare, Home, and Women and Child Development have issued the joint circular, following a recent meeting headed by Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh.

The circular stated that authorities should mandatorily display the child helpline numbers in the rooms of the residential schools. The residential schools have been instructed to separate girls and boys hostels by constructing compounds and also tighten security measures.

For high school children, a health check-up by a gynaecologist has been made mandatory, particularly after students return to the hostels following a long vacation.

To ensure the safety of children at residential hostels, the government has made it mandatory to do background verification of all staff. "In case any girl is absent from school for three continuous days then details of such a student should be given to the gram panchayat concerned by the head of the school and also to Child Line 1098," reads the circular.

"Counselling should be conducted for children to make them understand about physical and mental changes they will undergo as teenagers and also educate children about the free helpline 14416," it said.

HC allows continuation of probe in Dharmasthala case

The court had earlier stayed the probe into alleged mass burial of women; SIT says there are serious allegations against petitioners and associates; court directs SIT not to harass petitioners

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday allowed continuation of investigation by vacating its earlier interim order of staying the probe based on the first information report (FIR), registered in July, on a complaint of alleged mass burial of bodies of sexually assaulted women in Dharmasthala based on a "voluntary" statement given by a person by name Chinnaiah.

The stay was granted earlier on a petition filed by four activists – Girish Mattennavar, Mahesh Shetty Thimarody, T. Jayant, and Vittala Gowda – who were at the forefront of a campaign for registration of criminal case on the allegation of burials, and for constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT). However, the petitioner-activists had knocked the doors of the High Court against the FIR after the SIT recently issued notices to them under Section 35 (3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, suspecting them to have indulged in cognisable offence in projecting a false case of mass burial through Chinnaiah, instead of treating them as witnesses as done earlier.

Justice Mohammad Nawaz, before whom the petition came up for further hearing, vacated the October 30 interim order of staying the probe after considering the statement of objections filed by the SIT opposing the petition and seeking lifting of stay against investigation. However, the court directed the SIT not to harass the petitioners in the guise of the probe.

"Petitioners and their associates are fearful of the truth being revealed and are attempting to scuttle the investigation and derail the entire process by filing one or the other writ petition," it was contended by SIT's Special Public Prosecutor B.N. Jagadeesha in the written statement of objections.

It was further stated that continuation of investigation was essential in this serious matter, for which significant expenses had already been borne by the State, into "the false and *mala fide* allegations of the complainant [Chinnaiah], on the instructions of the petitioners and other associates."

Pointing out that Chinnaiah (now an accused in the case) had later disclosed about the falsification of his complaint and stated that his complaint and statements were as per the instructions and active connivance of the petitioners, the SIT also told the court that Chinnaiah was staying in the house of one of the petitioners and all the petitioners were controlling him, including "what to say and what not to say before the police/SIT."

Names of the petitioners were found in the fresh confession statement of Chinnaiah, the SIT said while pointing that claims of Chinnaiah were found to be bogus through the investigation.

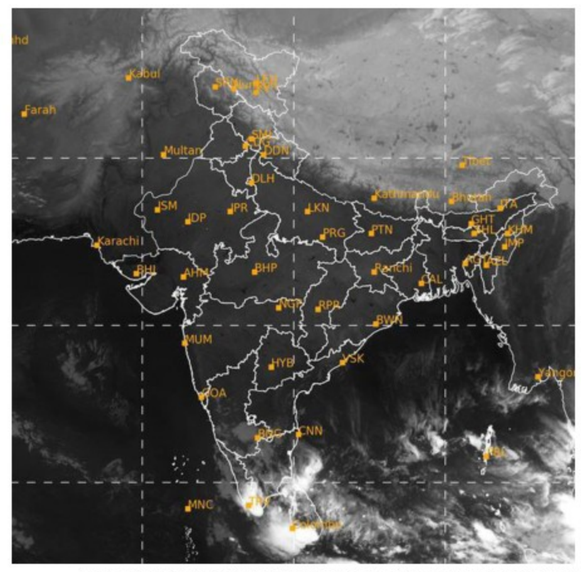
'Credible allegations'

The question of arresting the petitioners would not arise if they cooperated with the probe, the SIT said, while contending that that "there are serious and credible allegations against the petitioners and their associates that are independently corroborated through detailed field investigations carried out by the SIT based on circumstantial, evidence of credible witnesses, and digital forensic evidence."

Notices issued to the petitioners asking them appear for questioning were backed by "immaculate investigation, and by incontrovertible evidence from multiple sources", the SIT stated.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Kerala and Mahe. Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over east Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Cold day likely at isolated places over east Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.2	19.0	Kozhikode	—	33.4	25.4
Ahmedabad	—	31.5	15.5	Kurnool	—	33.5	20.3
Aizawl	—	28.1	16.0	Lucknow	—	28.4	12.4
Allahabad	—	28.8	11.3	Madurai	—	32.5	24.5
Bengaluru	—	28.8	19.4	Mangaluru	—	31.4	22.5
Bhopal	—	28.2	8.4	Mumbai	—	32.4	18.6
Bhubaneswar	—	29.7	15.5	Mysuru	—	30.0	19.0
Chandigarh	—	28.0	9.3	New Delhi	—	27.7	10.4
Chennai	—	32.3	26.4	Patna	—	28.1	16.4
Coimbatore	—	32.0	23.0	Port Blair	—	31.0	24.2
Dehradun	—	28.4	10.0	Puducherry	—	31.4	25.8
Gangtok	—	20.4	11.7	Pune	—	30.2	16.4
Goa	—	31.2	20.6	Raipur	—	29.2	13.7
Guwahati	—	28.9	18.5	Ranchi	—	25.2	10.7
Hubballi	—	29.0	18.0	Shillong	—	20.6	10.3
Hyderabad	—	30.3	15.6	Shimla	—	21.0	10.0
Imphal	—	27.1	11.9	Srinagar	—	17.1	-1.6
Jaipur	—	29.2	13.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.1	24.1
Kochi	—	30.0	25.4	Tiruchi	—	31.7	24.6
Kohima	—	15.7	11.9	Vijayawada	—	30.9	22.4
Kolkata	—	28.4	16.4	Visakhapatnam	—	30.1	23.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.32	.90	.66	184	215	
Bengaluru	4	.25	.68	60	276	
Chennai	.15	.34	.18	276	148	
Delhi	.63	159	101	442	426	
Hyderabad	2	.22	.61	165	128	
Kolkata	5	.21	.41	295	206	
Lucknow	6	.54	.24	257	151	
Mumbai	6	.50	.37	259	216	
Pune	.11	.56	.79	109	133	
Visakhapatnam	.21	.28	.19	189	137	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 418 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Three held on charge of embezzling ₹1.94 cr. meant for students' travel fund from IISc

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sadashivanagar police have arrested two women and a male accomplice working as clerks in the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for allegedly embezzling nearly ₹1.94 crore meant for the students' travel fund.

The accused have been identified as V. Soundarya, R. Deepika, and Sachin Rao, all aged 25.

According to police, a staff member of the institution filed a complaint on November 1, alleging that two temporary secretarial assistants edited and manipulated approval orders, changed students' bank account details, and diverted funds meant for travel advances.

Based on the complaint, a case was registered at the Sadashivanagar police station.

The police detained both women from their residences on November 2. During interrogation, they allegedly confessed to the crime and revealed the involvement of a male accomplice. The duo were produced before the court on November 3 and remanded in police custody.

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/135 -2025-26

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material

"Notice Inviting Tender" published vide Number CPD/131-2025-26 on dt. 08.11.2025 for tender no. SP/T-67/1125_TKC1 (RFX No. 7000038111) (3rd Call) is cancelled herewith.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

Government of Karnataka
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
O/o Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division
First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple) Bengaluru-560070.

No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/JE-1/26/2025-26 Dated:11.11.2025

Short Term Tender
KPPP Tender Notice, Two Cover System

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For 5054/2023-24 Grants Works. (**RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13635/CALL-2, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13613/CALL-2** & **RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13615/CALL-2** The work details can obtained from the KPPP Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **Dated:20.11.2025 upto 4.00 pm**. Further details can be obtained from web site at **http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/SHIRDI SAI/3737/2025-26

DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL
Office Of The Deputy Commissioner
Bangalore South District, Ramanagara - 562 159.
Phone : 080 - 2727 4108. E-mail : dude_ramangara@yahoo.co.in

No. : DUCU/MUN(1)/Amrutha Nagarothana-4/Ramanagara (Savings)/CR - 81/2025-26 Date : 11-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, DUDC, Bangalore South District, Ramanagara invites tenders from Eligible Contractors for **Amrutha Nagarothana (Municipality) - 4 Project** works as detailed below.

Interested Contractors shall register on the KPP Portal to platform in this Tender. Contractors can Download the Tender Document from the KPP Portal. Tenders shall be Submitted Electronically at KPP Portal EMD and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid Electronically.

1) Indent No. : DMA/2025-26/BD/WORKINDENT_50920, 2) DMA/2025-26/RD/WORKINDENT_50894, 2) Amount put to Tender : Rs. 204.76 Lakhs to Rs. 839.03 Lakhs, 3) EMD Amount : Rs. 3.08 Lakhs, 4) Pre-Bid Meeting Date : 28-11-2025 at 15.00 p.m., 5) Last Date for Uploading of Completed Tender Documents : 12-12-2025 upto 17.30 p.m., 6) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : 15-12-2025 after 11.00 a.m.

Tenders conditions and further information can be obtained from the said Office during working hours. If any changes in the calendar of events and the conditions will be notified on E-procurement Portal only. And News Paper Advertisement will not be published.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
District Urban Development Cell,
Bangalore South District, Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/440/Manipal/2025-26

Government of karnataka
Office of The Deputy Commissioner, Koppal

NO:REV/EST/137/2025/E-357905 Date: 12/11/2025

Tender Notification
(Through KPPP-Portal)

Tenders are invited from Manpower Agency for hiring of Programmers (4), Data Entry Operators (12), Drivers (9) & Group-D (12) for O/o The Deputy Commissioner, Koppal & its sub offices on outsource basis for a period of **01.01.2026 to 31.12.2026.** Tender document may be downloaded & Terms and Conditions can be viewed in Government of Karnataka e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date and time for receipt of tenders is **28/11/2025 up to 5.00** PM.

Sd/-Deputy Commissioner &
Tender Inviting Authority
O/o The Deputy Commissioner,
Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/449/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

Public Works Department
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Planning &
Road Asset Management Center (PRAMC), 4th Floor,
PWD Annex Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru

ಸಂ.: ಪ್ರಇಂ/ಪ್ರಾಮ್ಸಿ/ಲೋಇ/2025–26/1156 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.11.2025

NOTIFICATION

Sealed Quotations invited from the firms / dealers for the work "PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF ACADEMIC BLOCK AND RESEARCH BLOCK IN THE PREMISES OF BANGALORE UNIVERSITY AT MYSORE ROAD, JNANABHARATHI CAMPUS, BANGALORE" ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಗ್ರೇಟರ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದವರ ಪತ್ರದ ಸಂ: 204 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.10.2025ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿರುವ 138 ಮರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಬುಡಸಮೇತ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಅನುಮತಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅದರಂತೆ ಮೊಹರಬಂದ ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಟಾವು ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದ ಮರಗಳ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ದರಗಳು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ದಿ: **19.11.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4:30** ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಕಟಾವು ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದ ಮರಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–, ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಯೋಜನೆ ಮತ್ತು ರಸ್ತೆಗಳ ಆಸ್ತಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

DIPR/CP/LC/3730/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Senior Geologist, Dept. of Mines and Geology, RTO Office Near, Sathyamangala, Hassan.573201
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ID – sghassan10@gmail.com, sghsn-dmg-ka@nic.in ದೂ: 08172 200859

"PAPER NOTIFICATION"

E-tender number DMG/2025-26/SE0143, which was invited for the disposal of the 26 sand blocks through e-tender in Belur, Sakleshpur and Alur taluks of Hassan district notified by District Sand Committee from 03/11/2025 to 02/12/2025 on the https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ portal has been cancelled due to technical reasons. And the e-tender for the disposal of the said sand blocks has been invited from 11/11/2025 to 05/12/2025 through e portal. The pre-bid meeting has been scheduled on 25/11/2025 at 11:00 AM at the office of the Senior Geologist, Department of Mines and Geology. The bid document, details of sand blocks, reservation and other complete details can be obtained from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ and by visiting the office during office hours.

Sd/- Senior Geologist and Member Secretary Dist.
Sand Monitoring Committee, Hassan Dist. Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/757/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HUBBALLI

KMCRI/SUP(5)/ResMed/Tender-01/253/2025-26 Dated 10-11-2025

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರು **ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರು, ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು, ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಏಜೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಆರ್.ಐ. ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ Respiratory Medicine ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ Impulse Oscillometry Machine / FOT ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖರೀದಿಕೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಶಾಸನ 2000 ಅನ್ವಯ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **htpps://ww.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು),
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society
(An Organisation of Govt. of Karnataka)
No. 8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Cunningham Road,
Bengaluru - 560 052

No: KREIS/EE-1/Tender-20/2025-26 Date: 12.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for Improvements and Civil Repair works in the jurisdiction of KREIS **(Tender Indent No. 785, 784, 782, 741, 738, 787, 743, 792, 760, 756, 763, 751, 790, 735, 734, 793, 761, 755, 789, 788, 733, 739, 736, 737, 748, 740 and 742)** through e-Portal vide website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 12.11.2025. The last date for receipt of tender is 27.11.2025. The details may be viewed at above website.

Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-procurement portal only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-1
KREIS, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3752/CCL/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified and informed to the public that Mr. Hari Raj Singh Rana s/o Manak Singh Rana, Mrs. Chandrika Rana d/o Hari Raj Singh Rana and Mrs. Madhuri Rana d/o Hari Raj Singh Rana, were the joint and absolute owners of the property bearing (i) Sy. No. 10/6 measuring 4 acres 38 guntas, and (ii) Sy. No. 47 measuring 4 acres and are the present joint owners of Sy. No. 23/2 measuring 1 acre, all situated at Gollahalli Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District **("Property").** Further that the original title documents of the Schedule Property were deposited with Canara Bank, Chikkaballapura Branch against a mortgage, and unfortunately the original documents including the Sale Deeds and Mother Deeds are missing.

The said original documents relating to the Property include:

1. Sale Deed dated 19.01.1992, registered as Document No. **1655/91-92,** stored in Book-1, Vol. 1496, Pages 40-42, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Chikkaballapura.
2. Sale Deed dated 15.03.1995, registered as Document No. **2641/94-95,** stored in Book-1, Vol. 1570, Pages 213-215, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Chikkaballapura.
3. Sale Deed dated 01.03.2007, registered as Document No. **CKB-1-04149-2006-07,** stored in CD No. CKBD20, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Chikkaballapura.
4. Mortgage Deed dated 12.12.2008, registered as Document No. **CKB-1-02985-2008-09,** stored in CD No. CKBD36, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Chikkaballapura

These were last located by the owners with Canara Bank, and thereafter the documents went missing. The owners have also filed a complaint about the missing documents with the jurisdictional police station on 11.11.2025.

It is hereby requested with the public that in the event the missing documents are found or located by anyone, kindly contact Mr. Duke Devaiah for returning the aforementioned documents. The contact details are as follows:

Mr. Duke Devaiah, Advocate
Address: 90, 1st Floor, above Bimal Hero Showroom, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore 560090
Phone: +91 7204233402
E-mail: legal@agrocorp.co.in

Place: Bengaluru
Dated: 12.11.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public is hereby notified that we, on behalf of our Client, are investigating the title of Mr. Hari Raj Singh Rana s/o Manak Singh Rana, Mrs. Chandrika Rana d/o Hari Raj Singh Rana and Mrs. Madhuri Rana d/o Hari Raj Singh Rana ('Owners'), to the land being Sy. No. 23/2 measuring 01 Acre situated at Gollahalli Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District, which are more particularly described in the **'Schedule'** hereunder and collectively referred to herein as the **"Schedule Property".**

The Owners have represented that they are the joint and absolute owners of the Schedule Property, having a clear and marketable title and unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. The Owners have further represented that the Schedule Property is free from all kinds of encumbrances, charges, lien, litigation and/ or any third–party rights/ claims of any nature whatsoever.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any persons having or asserting any benefits, objection, demand, claim, right, title and/ or interest in respect of the Schedule Property, or any part or portion thereof, of any nature whatsoever, are hereby called upon to notify the same in writing, together with all details and original documents in support of such claim, to the undersigned at the address mentioned below within a period of **15 (Fifteen) working days** from the date of this Notice, failing which, it shall be conclusively presumed and deemed that the aforesaid Owners has a clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property and that none else have any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property. In such an event, our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the proposed transaction in respect of the Schedule Property on the basis that there are no objections and/ or claims whatsoever with respect thereto. Any objections and/ or claims received after the expiry of the period mentioned above shall neither be entertained nor shall be binding on our Client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties comprised of the agricultural lands bearing Sy. No. 23/2 measuring 01 Acre, situated at Gollahalli Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District and bounded on:
East by: Land belonging to Sy. No.23/4,
West by Land belonging to Sy. No. 23/6,
North by Land belonging to Sy. No. 47, and
South by NH 69 Road.

Mr. Duke Devaiah, Advocate
Address: 90, 1st Floor, above Bimal Hero Showroom, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore 560090
Phone: +91 7204233402
E-mail: legal@agrocorp.co.in

Place: Bengaluru
Dated: 12.11.2025

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL,
No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

No:EE/KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701/Bhadar/Corrigendum Tender Notification No:01/2025-26: Dated: 07.11.2025

Corrigendum-1
(Through E-Procurement Portal only)

Name of Work: Regarding the tender of 4701 Bhadra works.
Reference: No: EE/KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra/Tender Notification No: 11/2025-26: Dated: 06.10.2025
The following modifications are made in the Calendar of Events of the Notifications in above reference which was uploaded in the **(http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** and the details are as below:

As in Notification	
Date of Access to tender document and submission of completed tender form	09.10.2025 to 10.11.2025 up to 17.30 Hrs
Opening of First Electronic Document Technical Bid	11.11.2025 @ 17.30 Hrs.
Now to be read as:	
Date of Access to tender document and submission of completed tender form	09.10.2025 to 19.11.2025 up to 17.30 Hrs
Opening of First Electronic Document Technical Bid	20.11.2025 @ 17.30 Hrs.

All other items and conditions remain un-altered. Further details and information can be had from **(http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** link OR undersigned in all working days during Office hours on telephone No.: 8660573513

Sd/-
Executive Engineer. KNNL,
No.4, BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/SMG/No-35-11/zenkar/2025-26

Qualified success

Male out-migration and cash transfers make women's turnout higher in Bihar

Bihar has again demonstrated a singular electoral pattern in the Assembly elections which have ended. In preliminary voter turnout data from the Election Commission of India (ECI), women outnumbered men by at least 4.34 lakh votes, which is striking as they were registered approximately 42 lakh fewer than men on the electoral rolls following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). This gender gap, where those with fewer registrations turned out in greater absolute numbers, underscores a complex interplay of welfare politics, demographic realities and lingering questions about electoral roll integrity. The paradox becomes pronounced when viewed against the backdrop of the SIR exercise that preceded the election. It resulted in net exclusions favouring men, with women disproportionately removed from the rolls. Following these deletions, the gender ratio of Bihar's electorate plummeted to just 892 in the final SIR rolls, as against 907 recorded barely a year earlier. *The Hindu*'s statistical analysis of the draft SIR and exclusion data – released after a Supreme Court of India directive – revealed that women (18-29 years) were most severely affected, particularly under the "permanently shifted" category of exclusions. This suggests that women who moved after marriage bore the brunt of deletions, with no transparency on whether they were added to rolls in their new locations.

Despite these anomalies, the higher turnout of women is likely to work to the advantage of the Nitish Kumar-led government, if past electoral trends hold true. His nearly two-decade tenure has consistently emphasised women's empowerment through targeted welfare measures. This election cycle saw the launch of the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana in September, and the transfer of ₹10,000 to women across Bihar. Disbursements continued after the Model Code of Conduct, with the ECI accepting the questionable rationale that it was an "ongoing scheme". Higher participation by women in electoral processes is worth celebrating. Such patterns have been largely confined to States with either intense political-ideological contestation – West Bengal and Kerala – or those with high development indices. Bihar, however, presents a different picture. Its high male out-migration rates, for work, partly explain why women's absolute turnout exceeded men's despite their smaller registered base. The last-minute cash transfers and these structural demographic factors appear to be more responsible for the turnout pattern than any deep political or ideological mobilisation. This brings into focus the ECI's silence on a fundamental question: how did Bihar's electoral rolls end up with a gender ratio significantly lower than what surveys indicate for the State's population? Until the ECI provides transparent answers about the SIR process, the celebration of the higher women's turnout must remain qualified. Electoral participation gains meaning only when preceded by fair and accurate voter registration.

Renewed rivalry

India will be keen to move ahead in the new cricket Test cycle

Kolkata's Eden Gardens, one of cricket's hallowed venues, will again host South Africa. Back in 1991, when South Africa was readmitted to cricket following the withdrawal of apartheid and the consequent lifting of a 21-year sporting ban, it was the eastern metropolis that rolled out the red carpet to Clive Rice and his men. The first ODI was played at a packed Eden on November 10, one in which India prevailed, and 34 years later, another Protean unit led by Temba Bavuma will clash against Shubman Gill's men in the first Test commencing on Friday. In a fresh cycle, South Africa, the defending champion in the ICC World Test Championship, is up against India, often an indomitable force in its own backyard. That the tour of England was drawn at 2-2 in the longest format and the subsequent Tests against the West Indies at home were swept aside, is a pointer to the form and ability of Gill's unit despite the retirements of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and R. Ashwin and the continued absence of Mohammed Shami. The first two may still be playing ODIs, but this truly is Gill's era and five tons in his last seven Tests reveals a batter finding an extra gear when given the extra responsibility of captaincy.

This latest cricketing joust is like a full-course meal as it features two Tests, three ODIs and five T20Is. India can finesse its plans and team combinations in all three formats, besides gaining further inputs on the form and relevance of Rohit and Kohli after their decent run during the recent ODIs in Australia. The T20Is too will have an added layer as India and Sri Lanka will be hosting the ICC T20 World Cup next year. That Rishabh Pant is back in the mix, after a hiatus following an injury, augurs well while the other wicket-keeper Dhruv Jurel may still find his slot as a pure batter considering his exploits with the India A unit. Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, K.L. Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Pant, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj constitute the nucleus of a squad that is dealing with transition under coach Gautam Gambhir. South Africa with its blend of doughty batters and a sharp attack headlined by Kagiso Rabada, can be a strong opposition. The visitors also have an adequate blend of spin revealing an Indian origin flavour thanks to the presence of Keshav Maharaj and Senuran Muthusamy. Last year, host India was humbled by New Zealand and even if it is largely seen as an aberration, Bavuma's men could draw inspiration from the Black Caps.

Inter-State rivalry that is fuelling India's growth

Duvvuri Subbarao

is a former Governor, Reserve Bank of India (2008-2013)

Last month, when Google unveiled its plans for its largest Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centre outside of California, U.S., in Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu gleefully claimed bragging rights – a global tech titan choosing his State for a marquee investment over regional rivals such as Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The jubilation in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, could be heard across State borders. In Tamil Nadu, a former All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Minister chided the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-led Stalin government for failing to woo Google, although it is headed by a true-blue Tamil. Across another border, a Karnataka Minister suggested, with barely concealed envy, that Andhra Pradesh had lured Google with "extravagant subsidies".

Strip away the politics, though, and what you see is something profoundly healthy – competition among States for investment – a potentially powerful engine for growth. For the first time in decades, Chief Ministers are not queuing in Delhi's corridors of power, but are in boardrooms of multinationals and corporate conclaves, persuading investors that India's best destination is their State.

Central patronage to competitive federalism

To appreciate this shift, cast your mind back to pre-1991 India. For four decades after Independence, capital investment was largely a political decision made in New Delhi. The "commanding heights" of the economy were occupied by bureaucrats who dispensed patronage through licences, permits and quotas. The country's industrial geography was determined by political calculation rather than market forces. The Centre decided what should be produced, how much should be produced, and, crucially, where it should be produced.

States, on their part, vied for investment not by wooing potential investors but by wooing politicians in Delhi.

The reforms in 1991 changed that. By dismantling industrial licensing and opening India to trade and investment, liberalisation shifted power – at least partly – from the Centre to the States. One of the unstated hopes then was that economic freedom would unleash competition among States to attract investors through better infrastructure, governance and policy stability.

That transformation took time. For much of the next two decades, investment decisions remained Delhi-centric. Public enterprises continued to dominate and State bureaucracies were slow to adapt to a more entrepreneurial era.

The promise of reforms is now being realised.

> States are no longer queuing for Delhi's patronage but are campaigning with investors and pitching their case with confidence and data

The rise of competitive federalism has been one of the quiet revolutions of the past decade. States today compete not just with land, concessional utilities and tax breaks, but with reliability – predictable policy, faster clearances, skilled labour and good governance.

Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka vying for global tech mandates – from Google to Micron – is evidence of a maturing federal economy. When Foxconn debated where to locate its electronics facilities, States from Maharashtra to Tamil Nadu made pitches at the highest level. When Vedanta and Foxconn announced their semiconductor joint venture, both Maharashtra and Gujarat lobbied intensely, with Gujarat eventually breasting the tape. The tussle between Tamil Nadu and Telangana over electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing hubs underscored how investment courting has become a professional, high-stakes exercise.

Experience in other federations

India is not unique in this. Healthy subnational competition is a defining feature of all successful federations.

In the United States, when Amazon announced plans for a second headquarters, over 200 cities submitted proposals offering tax breaks, infrastructure support and workforce commitments. Although critics called it a subsidy race, it forced cities to improve governance and transparency. Many of the proposals later formed blueprints for urban renewal projects even where Amazon did not invest.

In Germany, the federal Länder (States) compete to attract high-tech industries. Bavaria's transformation into an innovation hub – home to BMW, Siemens and a cluster of "Mittelstand" firms – owes much to policy agility that other German States have since emulated.

Australia and Canada show similar patterns. Australian States compete to attract mining, clean energy and education investments, while Canadian provinces such as Ontario and British Columbia vie for technology and film production hubs. The result in all these cases is a virtuous cycle: competition that spurs innovation, efficiency and reform.

India's own States are now entering that league. The best-performing ones are magnets for both capital and ideas, setting governance benchmarks that others must meet or exceed.

The Centre, to its credit, has encouraged this shift. Rankings on ease of doing business, startup promotion and export readiness have intensified competition in constructive ways. Investors, once daunted by India's bureaucracy, now see its regional diversity as a positive – multiple entry points, each with distinct strengths. Andhra Pradesh's ease of doing business, Punjab's entrepreneurial verve, Tamil Nadu's skilled workforce, Gujarat's infrastructure, Jharkhand's mineral base and Uttar Pradesh's vast untapped potential – each is part of a mosaic that together makes India a federation of opportunity.

Competition, of course, carries risks. It should not degenerate into a race to the bottom. States must guard against reckless subsidies or indiscriminate land giveaways that undermine fiscal stability. The smarter path lies in competing through competence and credibility, not concessions.

Healthy rivalry also fosters imitation of best practices. When one State reforms single-window clearances, others follow. When one launches an EV policy, others sharpen theirs. A Haryana success provokes a Himachal response; a Madhya Pradesh reform triggers a Chhattisgarh recalibration; an Odisha initiative spurs West Bengal to better it. This dynamic, cross-State learning is driving policy diffusion across India – a hallmark of vibrant federalism. The global manufacturing and services landscape is now in churn. As multinationals diversify away from China, they seek scale, predictability and credible governance. The "+1" in the China+1 formula must be earned – State by State. No investor lands in "India" in the abstract; they land in Bengaluru, Bhopal or Bhubaneswar. In that sense, India competes globally through its States.

The new federal compact

In just three decades, India has moved from a permission-based economy to a persuasion-based one. States no longer queue for Delhi's patronage; they campaign with CEOs and investors, pitching their case with confidence and data.

This is a transformation of mindset as much as of policy. The Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu-Karnataka exchanges over Google's data centre may sound like parochial bickering, but they actually signify a maturing federal compact. States now view every investment not as central patronage but as a conquest earned through effort.

Every time Andhra Pradesh secures a tech data centre, or Gujarat wins a semiconductor plant, or Uttar Pradesh's electronics parks around Noida light up with new investment, or West Bengal breathes life into its ports and power grids to attract industry, the benefits ripple far beyond State borders. Each success strengthens supply chains, builds skills, and deepens India's industrial fabric. The bottom line: In the race for investment, every State that wins for itself, also wins for India.

Fine-tune the AI labelling regulations framework

Rakesh R. Dubbudu

is President of the Trusted Information Alliance (TIA), a cross-industry collaborative effort dedicated to championing information integrity and safeguarding users online

Rajneil R. Kamath

is Vice-President of the Trusted Information Alliance (TIA)

Two months ago, millions of Indians watched the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speak about indirect tax reforms. At the same time, a video travelled across instant messaging platforms in which the Minister appeared to endorse an investment scheme promising "30x returns in seven days". A Roorkee resident (Uttarakhand) lost ₹66 lakh after viewing this viral video, later found to have been created using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.

The rapid rise of near-indistinguishable digital alterations demands urgent, multi-stakeholder action.

Although the government initially recognised the existing framework as sufficient to tackle synthetic media, it has now introduced draft amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The amendments mandate that large social media platforms/Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs) clearly label synthetic or AI-generated media.

While the proposed rules mark a meaningful step forward, their real-world implementation will be complex and require engagement across multiple stakeholders.

Noble intent, ambiguous grouping

Synthetic media is defined as content that is artificially or algorithmically created, modified, or generated to appear authentic. However, labelling a broad range of content created with computer-generated imagery or altered with editing software can be complicated, since these are not technically made by generative AI. Given the volume of synthetic media and the fact that not all of it is problematic, the focus should be on harmful and/or misleading synthetic media. To put things in perspective, over 50% of all content on the Internet is now considered AI-generated, as per a recent report.

To fix accountability, the draft rules mandate that platforms introduce labels covering at least 10% of visual area of synthetic videos, or 10% of initial duration of synthetic audio; but its application to mixed media – say, real visuals with cloned audio – remains unclear.

> Precision is the key for a balance between control and creativity

Additionally, will a three-second disclaimer in a 30 second audio clip be effective? Or will it be ignored like the fine print in advertisements? Similarly, will a three-minute disclaimer in a 30-minute video inform viewers or overwhelm them?

We are still in the development phase of AI, and any prescriptive mandate on labels would not be principle-based, future-proof and technology-neutral. In some cases, it may not meet the reasonable person test like the 10% rule.

But it is not the question of labels alone. Watermarks promised by AI companies lack reliability. Within days of a large company releasing a text-to-video social media platform, with assurances that these videos would bear watermarks declaring them synthetic, tools emerged that could scrub these markings entirely.

Consequently, the framework needs fine-tuning and precise standards for each category. A tiered-labelling system that distinguishes between 'fully AI-generated', 'AI-assisted', and 'AI-altered' content may be more effective.

Graded compliance, targeted intervention

The proposed rules mandate intermediaries such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and X to analyse and label synthetic media, and they must broaden the scope to include creators directly. Creators frequently employ AI for visual storytelling tasks and also generate avatars and digital twins. But few inform the audience about their use. Although certain videos exhibit clear indicators of manipulation, other synthetic media have now achieved such realism that viewers struggle to distinguish between human- and AI-created content.

Also, creators above a follower threshold should disclose AI use similar to SSMIs; voluntary self-labelling can be promoted among smaller ones.

Graded compliance will acknowledge that professional creators hold significant influence and, therefore, owe transparency to their audiences. It can help creators not just gain and retain public trust but also keep up with evolving regulations.

Verification needs more hands on deck

Currently, the rules require SSMIs to ask users to label their content as synthetic. Platforms also have to deploy tools to verify the accuracy of such declarations. But synthetic media is multiplying faster than verification technology, and platforms have, so far, had limited success with labelling.

Most social media platforms adhere to Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA) standards to identify and establish the origins of digital content. However, as C2PA evolves, content is not strictly labelled as a norm. Besides, it is challenging for social media platforms to detect AI-generated or algorithmically-created content. Ultimately, the platforms would require the assistance of third-party detection tools, which are only as reliable as their training and accuracy.

So far, platforms have not refined their tools. An audit by Indicator, a publication that monitors digital deception, found that most failed to label AI content: Only 30% of its 516 AI-generated test posts across Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, TikTok and YouTube were correctly flagged. Google and Meta did not label content from their own AI tools, TikTok only flagged its in-app creations, and Pinterest, the top performer, effectively labelled just 55%.

As the focus shifts to providing credible information, the social media ecosystem should also rely on the discernment of independent information verifiers and auditors. This is especially critical for harmful, fraudulent and misleading content where the stakes are high. Such auditors can be trusted to close gaps in automated detection systems through human judgment, helping platforms become more resilient to deepfakes and protecting users.

The adage, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is", will soon be codified into India's IT laws. With nuance, users will no longer need to second-guess authenticity. The label will provide clarity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The issue of radicalisation

The blast near Red Fort has shaken the nation's conscience. The fact that the main suspect, a doctor by profession, was allegedly involved in planning such a horrific act is deeply disturbing. It reveals how educated youth — those meant to heal and help — can sometimes be drawn into destructive ideologies.

Beyond the immediate tragedy, this act of terror exposes larger systemic gaps. The ease with which huge quantities of explosives were procured and transported, points to lapses in monitoring and intelligence coordination among States. At the same time, it raises the urgent need for de-radicalisation programmes and community-level awareness, especially in vulnerable regions. The long-term focus must go beyond arrests — towards preventing such radical influences from taking root in the first place.

Pavithra M.,
Tiruchi

Bihar votes

It is a relief that the heat and dust in the Bihar Assembly election will now settle. The run-up to the election was acrimonious. The fact that there was active voter participation, with a large turnout by women, especially in the wake of issues that arose during the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, is encouraging. Despite the exit polls, one looks forward to the results on November 14.

B. Suresh Kumar,
Coimbatore

A.G. Noorani

A.G. Noorani was a thorough researcher and was always sure of his facts. One could not easily win an argument on any subject he wrote. It was a pleasure to read his articles in *The Hindu* and *Frontline*. His article, "Savarkar's mercy petition", published on April 8, 2005, was impressive. Noorani was a staunch secularist and will be missed in many ways.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

The limits of international branch campuses

Philip G. Altbach

Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Fellow, Center for International Higher Education, Boston College, U.S.

Eldho Mathews

Programme Officer (internationalisation) at the Kerala State Higher Education Council

Last month, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer arrived in India with a planeload of vice chancellors. The Indian and U.K. governments announced that several U.K. universities plan to open branch campuses in India. Some of them have already received University Grants Commission (UGC) approval, while others are in the early stages of the application process. The fact that Mr. Starmer led this delegation can certainly speed up the regulatory approvals and establish these new campuses as legitimate ventures. However, it is worth analysing this initiative.

The need for branch campuses

The recent changes in the India-U.K. educational partnership are tied to the broader India-U.K. Vision 2035 and the recently signed India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. Also, British higher education is undergoing an unprecedented financial crisis, created both by inadequate support from the Starmer government and by a decline in the number of international students going to the U.K. and paying high fees. It is likely that some British universities are looking to a move to India as a way of earning income from Indians without importing students. But will Indians want to study at a branch campus as a substitute for the "real thing"? Will the branches apply the same standards both for student performance and faculty quality in India as they do on their home campuses?

Branch campuses do not always succeed. And when they fail, students are often left without alternatives. In recent years, several international branch campuses faced significant setbacks. Texas A&M University closed its Qatar campus after two decades of operation. In Europe, the University of Kent's Brussels campus was shut down due to financial pressures. These developments reveal a growing fragility in the operation of international branch campuses where global uncertainties and local market realities challenge the sustainability of such ventures. This risk should be an eye-opener for India, where clear contingency frameworks are yet to be outlined. One of the major gaps in current UGC regulations is the lack of a clear safety net for students, especially if a branch campus were to suddenly shut down.

Just what is a branch campus? Is it a full academic institution transplanted from one country to another, with a campus, a variety of offerings, perhaps some focus on research, facilities for student services, and the like? Or is it a floor of an office complex offering a few specialised degree programmes deemed to be attractive to target audiences and taught by local faculty or professors from the home university who fly in for a few weeks or perhaps teach only on Zoom? Globally, there seem to be many more of the latter.

Experts point out that building a "real" branch is expensive and time consuming. Most "real" branch campuses around the world have been financed by governments or in some cases by property developers. For example, the campus of New York University in Abu Dhabi was built using funds from the UAE. Foreign universities are seldom willing to invest in actually building overseas campuses. So, it is worth asking whether the British universities will be making significant investments to build their branches in India or whether they simply intend to leverage local partnerships and facilities.

There is also the question of teaching. Will these branches provide full-time faculty from their home campuses? Experience shows that this is seldom the case. As a result, these campuses have to rely primarily on local faculty. If that is the case, what then will distinguish these branch campuses from India's emerging elite and semi-elite universities?

Also, will the branches have a research mission? The vast majority of branch campuses worldwide are only teaching outposts, as building research capacity is expensive. Indeed, research has been a point of contention between the Chinese government and a number of the branch campuses in China – including British branches of Nottingham in Ningbo and Liverpool in Suzhou.

In India, the question is whether the branch campuses will be allowed to engage with the national research ecosystem by participating in the schemes of the Indian Council of Social Science Research or Department of Science and Technology or remain isolated teaching units. Their contribution to India's research output and innovation metrics would be meaningful only if they are incentivised to undertake research collaborations and capacity-building.

Balancing ambition and reality

The ultimate value of foreign branch campuses will depend less on their brand and more on their ability to offer something not readily available in India. If handled well, branch campuses can provide access for students as India expands higher education enrolments. They can provide useful examples of innovative government and management practices that may be relevant for India's often sclerotic higher education system. However, the absence of clear frameworks on accreditation and quality assurance leaves uncertainty about how such collaborations will align with national standards and protect student interests. The question of fee structures adds another layer of complexity because India's many semi-elite and elite private universities already offer globally benchmarked programmes with international partnerships. As India approaches an era of branch campuses, there are significant possibilities, but *caveat emptor*.

The ultimate value of foreign branch campuses will depend less on their brand and more on their ability to offer something not readily available in India

Tagore, Bankim, and an exercise in futility

Pitting cultural icons against one another only deepens political fault lines

STATE OF PLAY

Shiv Sahay Singh
shivsahay.s@thehindu.co.in

Politics in West Bengal often revolves around the State's cultural icons. Over the past few days, the two tallest names in the Bengal literary world – Rabindranath Tagore and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay – have become subjects of an intense political debate, with political parties appearing to be in a hurry to appropriate them.

In the first week of November, the West Bengal government issued a notification mandating that Tagore's *Banglar Maati Bangla Jol* (Bengal's land and Bengal's water) be sung during morning assembly in all State-run schools. In December 2023, the government had declared the song as the State anthem and directed that it be played at all State government events along with the national anthem.

Around the same time that this notification was issued, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre organised an event to observe 150 years of Chattopadhyay's *Vande Mataram*. The BJP leadership in West Bengal immediately sensed an opportunity. It went to various locations associated with Chattopadhyay and highlighted neglect at a few of them. Its leaders accused the government of not paying enough respect to *Vande Mataram* and questioned the timing of making mandatory Tagore's song at all State-run schools.

The Trinamool responded by accusing the BJP of disrespecting Tagore. The party said that BJP MP Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri had made derogatory remarks against Tagore. It held protests at Jorasanko Thakurbari, the ancestral home of the Nobel Laureate, in Kolkata. The BJP MP had said that the national anthem, penned by Tagore, was written "to welcome British officials" and opined that *Vande Mataram* should have instead been made the national anthem.

The debate appears to have reduced Tagore to being an icon of the Trinamool and Chattopadhyay as being a role model for the BJP. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee admitted that there was an attempt to create a divide between the two poets. She also claimed that since scholars are divided on the time of composition of Vande Mataram, her government had set up a committee to observe the sesqui-centenary celebrations of the song.

Developments in neighbouring Assam added fuel to the debate. A local Congress leader was booked, at the instruction of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, for singing Tagore's song, *Amar Sonar Bangla* (O my Golden Bengal). Members of civil society, including academicians, descended on the streets of Kolkata singing *Amar Sonar Bangla*, which is also the national anthem of Bangladesh, in protest of the police action in Assam.

The *Jana Gana Mana* versus *Vande Mataram* debate was earlier raised by fringe elements. However, ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls, it has been mainstreamed in West Bengal politics. While it goes without saying that Tagore towers over other literary figures in West Bengal and that his ideals continue to form the essence of Bengali identity and culture, there is also ample space for other writers and poets in Bengal's literary and cultural milieu.

The BJP has successfully fuelled the debate over the two poets. However, the Trinamool should not fall into this trap, particularly when the West Bengal government honours all the prominent icons from the State, including Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the founder of the Jana Sangha. It is unfortunate that the works of cultural icons are being pitted against one another, especially when their writings are rooted in patriotism and nationalism. Some scholars point out that when Chattopadhyay met a young Tagore in 1882, he put a garland around him calling him an "elegant poet of the new age". In 1896, Tagore sang *Vande Mataram* at the Kolkata session of the Indian National Congress. Comparing the national anthem – *Jana Gana Mana* – with the country's national song – *Vande Mataram* – is not only an exercise in futility, but also reflects a narrow understanding of India's history and politics.

In an ideal world, poets and writers whose works form the basis of the freedom movement would remain above the fray of politics. Granted, we don't live in such a world. But even if politicians cannot do so, they can be more prudent by honouring the contributions of all Indians and not pitting icons against one another. In an already polarised environment, such attempts of appropriation only deepen our political fault lines.

Three out of four Indians believe climate change is affecting them

Close to 80% of them said they were willing to change their lifestyle to help reduce its impact

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

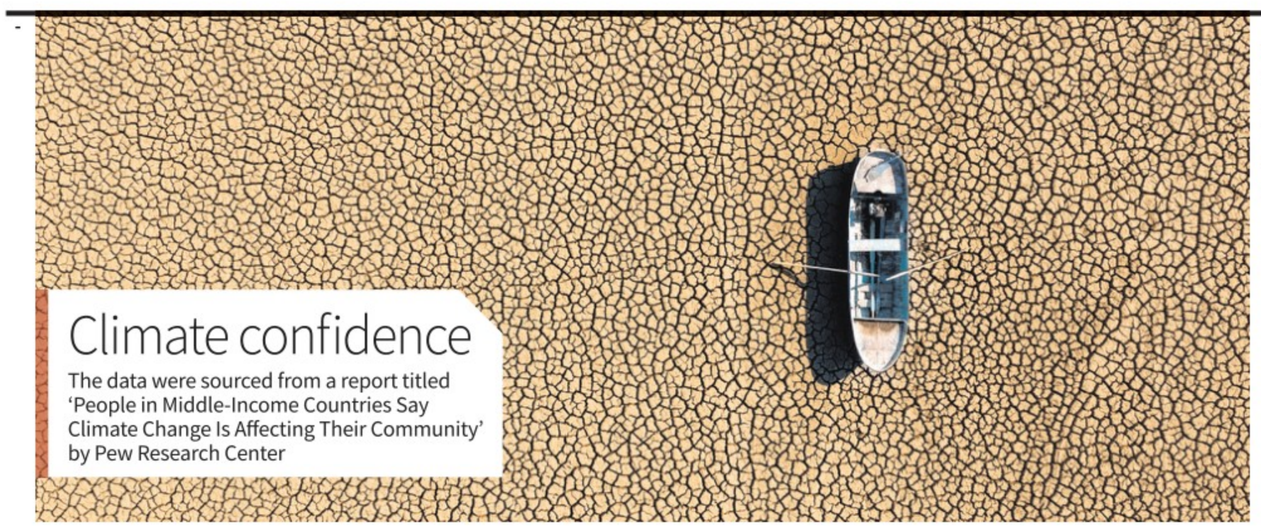
At least three out of four Indians believe that climate change is affecting the area they live in and is harming them. Most were willing to make lifestyle changes to help reduce its impact, according to a Pew survey, conducted between January 8 and April 21, 2025. **Chart 1** shows the results for nine middle-income countries – Argentina, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa, and Turkey – where the survey was conducted.

India is one of the few countries where the willingness to make changes was uniformly high across all age groups. Over 75% of Indians across all age groups (18-34, 35-49 and 50+) were willing to make a lot of lifestyle changes or some lifestyle changes. In contrast, in many other countries, older age groups were far less likely to express such willingness **(Chart 2)**.

India is also among the few countries where the likelihood of making lifestyle changes to counter climate change did not differ much between those who said their area has been affected by climate change and those who said it has not **(Chart 3)**. About 35% were willing to make a lot of lifestyle changes even when they said climate change was not affecting their area – the second highest among the countries surveyed.

Indians also stand out for their confidence in the international community's ability to address climate change. Over 70% are confident that actions taken will significantly reduce the effects of climate change **(Chart 4)**.

Over 40% of Indians said they are most concerned about drought in 2025, although this share has declined since 2015. Meanwhile, the proportion of those citing unusually long periods of hot weather as a major concern has risen sharply to 26%.


Climate confidence
The data were sourced from a report titled 'People in Middle-Income Countries Say Climate Change Is Affecting Their Community' by Pew Research Center

Rising concern: Over 40% of Indians were most concerned about drought in 2025. This share has declined since 2015.

This analysis draws on nationally representative surveys of 12,375 adults. Surveys were conducted face to face: Argentina, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa, and Turkey

Chart 1: Percentage who say global climate change is affecting the area where they live and work. Most people in the 9 middle-income countries believe climate change is affecting the area where they live

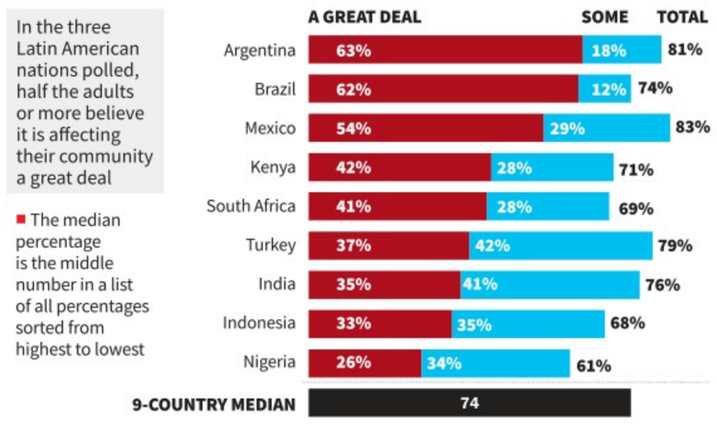

A GREAT DEAL
SOME
TOTAL
Argentina 63% 18% 81%
Brazil 62% 12% 74%
Mexico 54% 29% 83%
Kenya 42% 28% 71%
South Africa 41% 28% 69%
Turkey 37% 42% 79%
India 35% 41% 76%
Indonesia 33% 35% 68%
Nigeria 26% 34% 61%
9-COUNTRY MEDIAN 74
In the three Latin American nations polled, half the adults or more believe it is affecting their community a great deal
The median percentage is the middle number in a list of all percentages sorted from highest to lowest

Chart 2: Percentage willing to make **a lot of changes** to how they live and work to help reduce the effects of global climate change

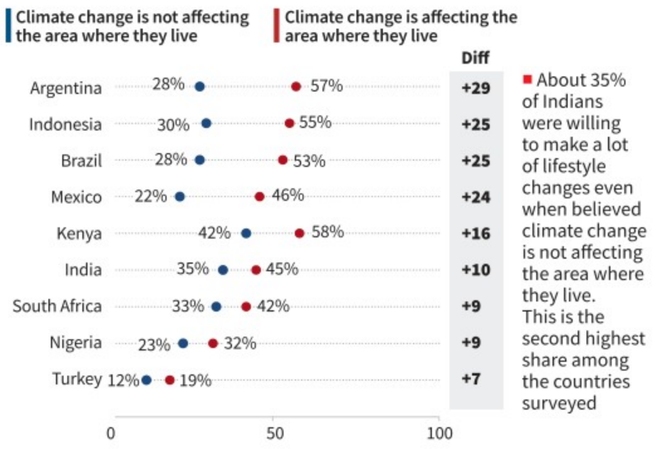

Climate change is not affecting the area where they live
Climate change is affecting the area where they live
Diff
Argentina 28% 57% +29
Indonesia 30% 55% +25
Brazil 28% 53% +25
Mexico 22% 46% +24
Kenya 42% 58% +16
India 35% 45% +10
South Africa 33% 42% +9
Nigeria 23% 32% +9
Turkey 12% 19% +7
0
50
100
About 35% of Indians were willing to make a lot of lifestyle changes even when believed climate change is not affecting the area where they live. This is the second highest share among the countries surveyed

Chart 3: Percentage willing to make a **lot of/some changes** to how they live and work to help reduce the effects of global climate change, by age

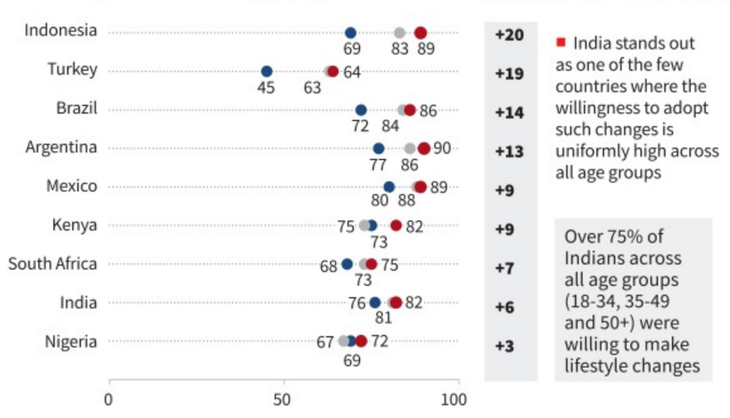
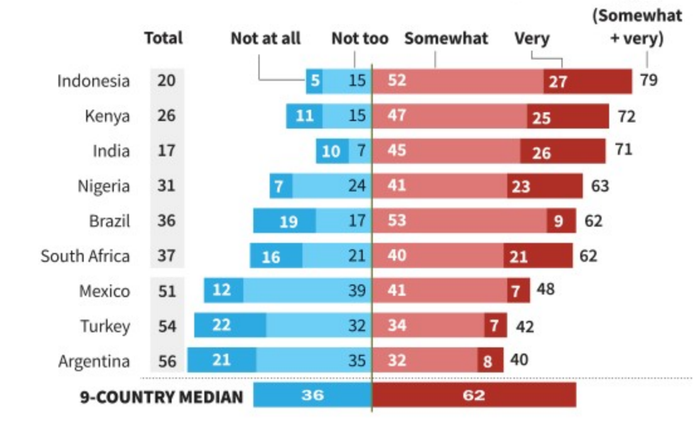

Youngest –Oldest Diff
Ages 50+
Ages 35–49
Ages 18–34
Indonesia 69 83 89 +20
Turkey 45 63 64 +19
Brazil 72 84 86 +14
Argentina 77 86 90 +13
Mexico 80 88 89 +9
Kenya 73 75 82 +9
South Africa 68 73 75 +7
India 76 81 82 +6
Nigeria 67 69 72 +3
0
50
100
India stands out as one of the few countries where the willingness to adopt such changes is uniformly high across all age groups
Over 75% of Indians across all age groups (18-34, 35-49 and 50+) were willing to make lifestyle changes

Chart 4: % who are __ confident that actions taken by the international community will reduce the effects of climate change


Total
Not at all
Not too
Somewhat
Very
Total (Somewhat + very)
Indonesia 20 5 15 52 27 79
Kenya 26 11 15 47 25 72
India 17 10 7 45 26 71
Nigeria 31 7 24 41 23 63
Brazil 36 19 17 53 9 62
South Africa 37 16 21 40 21 62
Mexico 51 12 39 41 7 48
Turkey 54 22 32 34 7 42
Argentina 56 21 35 32 8 40
9-COUNTRY MEDIAN 36 62

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 13, 1975

Kissinger rules out U.S. exit from U.N.

Pittsburg, Nov. 12: The U.S. Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, indicated to-day that action could be taken by the U.S. against the countries which helped pass a U.N. resolution condemning Zionism.

But he said at a news conference that no decision had been taken yet on such a step.

The countries which voted for the resolution, Dr. Kissinger said, had contributed to "an international environment that will be less helpful" in settling the differences in West Asia. "Therefore we will have to consider a vote on an individual basis before deciding what specific action we will take towards various countries," he added.

"A decision to apply sanctions would be a major decision in (U.S.) foreign policy. We have to see the United Nations in some perspective," he said.

Dr. Kissinger said, "We went through a period in which the U.N. was considered and described as the best hope of humanity." That was exaggerated. "But we must not swing to the other extreme of not realising some of the benefits that the U.N. with all its failings still has for the U.S. Therefore, we will assess the situation. We have not made any final decision."

PTI reports: At his press conference at Pittsburgh, Dr. Kissinger ruled out suggestions made by angry legislators that the United Nations should pull out of the U.N.

Dr. Kissinger also ruled out the possibility of the U.S. withdrawing its support to the programme announced at the special session of the U.N. General Assembly as regards developing countries.

Whatever might be the immediate irritation, the U.S. should conduct its policies in the hope that the possibility of a cooperative world remained open.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 13, 1925

Chinese civil war

Shanghai, Nov. 12: It is reported that the Chief of the Executive Tuanchijai is virtually a prisoner in the hands of Feng Yu-Hiang, who is believed to have definitely broken with Chang Tao-Lin.

Peking, Nov. 12: A number of Cabinet Members have resigned. Several officials who are supporters of Chang-Tao-Lin have fled. The Tariff Conference is meeting to-morrow despite threats of war in the neighbourhood of Peking.

From Page One

Accused doctor, driver visited Red Fort in Jan.

The police learnt that Dr. Nabi had used the fake address to purchase the car and later got it registered at the Rajouri Garden RTO on November 22, 2017.

The police, after tracking several CCTV camera footage, have come to the conclusion that the prime suspect was not carrying a mobile phone. "On the CCTV footage nowhere can we see him using a phone. His phone's last location was traced near Al-Falah on October 31. Since then it has been switched off," an officer said.

The officer added that the police were investigating the presence of tele-selectors by going through the data of the signals around the Red Fort parking complex where Dr. Nabi had parked his car for nearly three hours.

"He did not leave the parked vehicle for three hours and since he seems to not have a phone, it could mean that he was using a tele-selector to communicate with his handlers," said the officer.

A tele-selector is a device used for communication by terrorist organisations to evade surveillance and prevent their trails from being mapped back.

The Directorate of Communications, Turkiye, released a statement, saying that Turkiye firmly rejects all acts of terrorism, regardless of where or by whom they are committed, and stands as a leading country in the fight against terrorism through cooperation with the international community.

Retail inflation hits record low of 0.25%

In fact, food and beverage prices have contracted in four out of the seven months of this financial year so far.

"The decline in headline inflation and food inflation during the month of October 2025 is mainly attributed to the full month's impact of decline in Goods and Service Tax [rates], favourable base effect and to drop in inflation of oils and fats, vegetables, fruits, egg, footwear, cereals and products, transport and communication, etc.," the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said in its release.

According to economists, this decline is however due to a statistical base effect rather than an actual fall in prices. That is, because food inflation in the same month of last year was 9.7%, the change in prices this October looks relatively better.

"Food inflation has come down mainly due to base effects," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, said.

The data show that this base effect in food inflation was the driving factor behind the fall in overall inflation. For example, inflation in the fuel and light category stood at 2% in October 2025, compared to a contraction of 1.7% in October of the previous year.

Inflation in the housing category, too, accelerated to 3% in October 2025 from 2.8% in October 2024.

The clothing and footwear category was one of the few other than food that saw inflation easing in October, to 1.7% from 2.7% in October last year, likely on account of the GST rate cuts.

Inflation on tobacco products

The pan, tobacco, and other intoxicants category saw inflation quicken to 2.9% in October 2025 from 2.5% in the same month last year. The miscellaneous category, which captures all other items not included in the major sub-groups, saw inflation accelerate to 5.7% in October 2025 versus 4.3% in October last year.

All HCs must upload timeline of verdicts: SC

Justice Bagchi said there ought to be a dashboard on High Court websites, exclusively focusing on the reservation and pronouncement of judgments. "That will show the transparency and accountability of the judiciary to the people," Justice Bagchi remarked.

The top court, in its order on Wednesday, directed the State High Courts to file reports on their existing mechanisms to bring into the public domain the dates when pending judgments were reserved, the time taken between the reservation of judgments and their pronouncement, and when a pronounced judgment is actually uploaded on their official websites.

The Bench specifically sought from the High Courts details of judgments reserved after January 31, 2025, and details of pronouncement of judgments till October 31, 2025. This would include the uploading of the judgments on the websites.

The High Courts have been asked for their views about framing a uniform mechanism to disclose the dates of reservation, pronouncement of judgments and their uploading on websites.

The Bench said the High Courts could be frank about their apprehensions about laying bare such details in the public domain. The court underscored that the High Courts must be frank about the adverse consequences that may result from such disclosures.

In an earlier hearing of the case in September, the top court had emphasised the urgent need to evaluate the performance of High Court judges. "Our intention is not to act as a school principal and monitor everything, but there should be broad guidelines. Judges should know the task before them," the top court had observed then.

Al-Falah University distances itself from doctors accused in the blast

University Vice-Chancellor expresses concern over allegations made by 'online platforms' about laboratories being used for storing explosives materials; the police conduct door-to-door searches in Fatehpur Taga for explosives and suspects

Alisha Dutta
DHOUJ

In the spotlight: Vehicles exit the Al-Falah University in Faridabad, Haryana, on Wednesday amid an investigation in the aftermath of the blast near the Red Fort. PTI

An eerie silence lay over Al-Falah University on Wednesday, as the Faridabad police conducted several raids on campus and door-to-door searches in the nearby villages of Dhouj and Fatehpur Taga, seeking explosives materials and suspects connected to the Delhi car blast that killed at least 12 people on Monday.

An alleged occupant of the car, Umar Nabi, who was killed in the blast, was a junior doctor at the university, while two other doctors who have been arrested were also working there. The university has issued a statement distancing itself from those accused of being part of the "Faridabad terror module".

"We have also learnt that two of our doctors have been detained by the investigating agencies. We wish to make it clear that the university has no connection with the said persons apart from them being working in their official capacities with the university," Vice-Chancellor Bhupinder Kaur Anand said in the statement.

She expressed concern over allegations made by "online platforms" about the university laboratories being used for storing chemicals or materials. "The university laboratories are used solely and exclusively for the academic and training requirements of MBBS students and other authorised courses," the statement said.

Fear on campus

Students and staff stayed behind the university's gates, two days after the blast. The tea stalls once buzzing with the chatter of students stood deserted as heavy security stood between the campus premises and passers-by.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a second year student from the Pharmaceutical Department said that she and her classmates are now afraid of telling people where they study. "People have started associating all the students and staffers with the conspiracy, and that has made us afraid about our safety," she said over the phone, requesting anonymity.

Just outside the campus, within the premises of the Al-Falah mosque, fear loomed in the single-room quarters occupied by the mosque's Imam Mohammad Ishtiyaq, who was detained on Tuesday. He left behind four minor children and an ailing wife. "Every time a car comes, I get reminded of the day the police came to pick up my father," the Imam's eldest daughter told *The Hindu*. The Imam was taken to Jammu and Kashmir for interrogation on Wednesday.

Door-to-door search

A similar heaviness marred the faces of the villagers of Fatehpur Taga, where Dr. Muzamil Ganaie had allegedly been storing explosives and ammunition in a rented house owned by the Imam.

Around 7 p.m. on Tuesday, the Faridabad police had gone door to door to search every corner of the houses in the village in search of more explosives. The police confirmed that they were looking for ammunition and possible suspects hiding amongst locals as well.

NIA searches in five States in al-Qaeda terror case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches in 10 locations across five States in an al-Qaeda Gujarat terror conspiracy case involving illegal Bangladeshi immigrants.

The searches were carried out on premises linked to various suspects and their associates in West Bengal, Tripura, Meghalaya, Haryana, and Gujarat. Several digital devices and documents were seized.

Fake identities

The NIA took over the case in June 2023. "Investigations in the case so far have revealed that four Bangladeshi nationals, identified as Mohammad Sojibmiyan, Munna Khalid Ansari aka Munna Khan, Azarul Islam aka Jahangir aka Aakash Khan, and Abdul Latif aka Mominul Ansari, had illegally infiltrated into India from Bangladesh using forged Indian identity documents. They were found to be connected with the proscribed al-Qaeda terrorist organisation," said the agency.

Centre describes explosion in Delhi as 'terrorist incident', promises justice

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday described the car explosion near the Red Fort as a "terrorist incident", expressing grief over the loss of lives and directing that the investigation be pursued with utmost urgency to bring the perpetrators, collaborators, and their sponsors to justice without delay.

At a press conference, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the Cabinet expressed its profound grief and observed two minutes' silence in the honour of innocent lives lost. It also adopted a resolution, stating that the country has witnessed a heinous terror incident perpetrated by anti-national forces.

The explosion resulted in multiple fatalities, and caused injuries to several others.

"The Cabinet pays its solemn respects to the victims of this senseless act of violence and conveys its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. The Cabinet prays for the speedy recovery of all those injured, and appreciates the prompt efforts of the medical personnel and emergency responders, who have been providing care and support to the victims," the resolution said.

> The Cabinet appreciates the efforts of all authorities and citizens who acted with courage in the face of adversity. Their dedication and sense of duty are deeply commendable
>
> **ASHWINI VAISHNAW**
> Union Minister

'Cowardly act'

Mr. Vaishnaw said the Cabinet unequivocally condemned the "dastardly and cowardly act" and reiterated India's unwavering commitment to a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism.

"The Cabinet notes with appreciation the timely and coordinated response of the authorities, security agencies, and citizens who acted with courage and compassion in the face of adversity. Their dedication and sense of duty are deeply commendable," the Union Minister said.

He said the Cabinet had directed that the investigation into the incident be pursued with the utmost urgency and professionalism so that the perpetrators, their collaborators, and their sponsors are identified and brought to justice without delay.

"The situation continues to be closely monitored at the highest levels of the government. The Cabinet reaffirms the Government's steadfast resolve to safeguard the lives of all Indians, consistent with its commitment to national security and the safety of every citizen," he added.

Security personnel stand guard during raids on houses linked to Jamaat-e-Islami members in Srinagar on Wednesday.

Over 600 detained across Kashmir; JeI premises searched

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

At least 600 individuals have been "detained and bound down" in over 500 search operations in Kashmir over the past few days, officials said on Wednesday. Meanwhile, scores of premises of members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) were also raided on Wednesday as part of the ongoing operation.

The crackdown on suspects in Kashmir was stepped up after the Red Fort blast in New Delhi on November 10, which left 13 civilians dead. The role of three doctors from south Kashmir is under the scanner for their "terror links". One of them is suspected to have been the driver of the explosive-laden car.

Officials said DNA samples were collected from Dr. Umar Nabi's mother to match with the remains found inside the car. Dr. Nabi is the main suspect in the Red Fort blast.

Scouring across Kashmir

A police spokesman said over 200 locations were raided in south Kashmir's Kulgam, also the hometown of Dr. Adeel Ahmad Rather, who is under scanner for the posters pasted by Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) on October 19 at multiple locations in the Bunpora area of Nowgam, Srinagar. The posters had carried threats against police and security forces.

"The raids in Kulgam were carried out at the houses and premises of JeI members and their associates to dismantle the terror ecosystem and its support structure at the grassroots level," the police said.

Kulgam saw more than 400 cordon-and-search operations (CASOs) in the past four days. "These operations have led to the interrogation of around 500 individuals affiliated with JKNOPs (J&K Nationals Operating from Pakistan) and other banned outfits. Many have been bound down and shifted to Mattan Jail, in Anantnag under preventive laws," the police said.

In Baramulla's Sopore, the police said raids were conducted at over 30 locations across Sopore, Zaingeer, and Rafiabad areas. "The searches were based on credible intelligence inputs indicating attempts by JeI-linked elements to revive their activities under different fronts," the police added. In Pulwama's Awantipora, scores of houses and premises of JeI members were also raided.

In central Kashmir's Ganderbal, a large quantity of incriminating materials, including documents, digital devices, and printed content, was recovered and seized from the premises of JeI-linked individuals. "Several suspects have been detained for questioning," the police said. According to the police, these operations form a crucial part of the J&K Police's preventive strategy aimed at dismantling the terror-separatist ecosystem, cutting off its ideological, financial, and logistical networks, and ensuring that peace remain undisturbed.

The Hindu wins at Global AMR Media Awards 2025

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

At the 5th Annual Global Media Forum held ahead of the World Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week 2025, Athira Elsa Johnson of *The Hindu* won the first prize in the India category for her report headlined "Rising antimicrobial resistance in STIs being seen in India: experts" published on September 5.

Soujanya Padikal, a freelancer for *The Hindu*, received a special mention in the Asia-Pacific region category for her article headlined "As we continue to tackle the challenges of antimicrobial resistance, time to factor in newer, emergent issues" published on May 23. The Global AMR Media Awards, hosted by the Global AMR Media Alliance, recognise journalists worldwide for advancing awareness of antimicrobial resistance.

Modi meets Red Fort blast survivors, says perpetrators will be brought to justice

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday visited the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital (LNJP) here and met the survivors of the blast that took place near the Red Fort on Monday, vowing that those behind the act would be brought to justice.

The Prime Minister went to the hospital after landing in New Delhi following a two-day visit to Bhutan, according to official sources. "Went to LNJP Hospital and met those injured during the blast in Delhi. Praying for everyone's quick recovery. Those behind the conspiracy will be brought to justice!" Mr. Modi posted on social media platform X.

Mr. Modi interacted with the injured and enquired about their health. He was also briefed by senior officials and doctors about the condition of the victims and the treatment being provided.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a person injured in the Red Fort car blast, at the Lok Nayak Hospital in Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

At least 12 people were killed in the blast that took place inside a car on Monday evening. During his visit to Bhutan, a day after the blast, Mr. Modi, in a speech at an event there, had expressed deep sorrow over the incident.

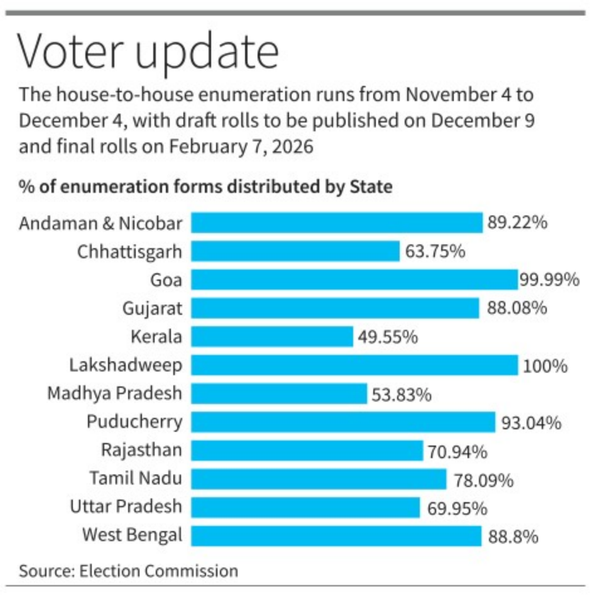
"Today, I come here with a very heavy heart. The horrific incident that took place in Delhi yesterday evening has deeply saddened everyone. The entire nation stands with affected families today. Our agencies will get to the bottom of this conspiracy. The conspirators behind this will not be spared. All those responsible will be brought to justice," the Prime Minister said.

Enumeration forms distributed to 73% voters in Phase 2 of SIR, says EC

Lakshadweep has topped the list, covering all but one voter — 57,812 of 57,813 voters; Goa is a close second, while Kerala trails due to upcoming local body polls; Bengal and T.N. covered 88.8% and 78.09% voters, respectively, according to EC

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

A week since the distribution of enumeration forms for the second phase of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in 12 States began, the forms have been distributed to around 73% voters whose names are present in the current voter lists, the Election Commission (EC) said on Wednesday.


Voter update
The house-to-house enumeration runs from November 4 to December 4, with draft rolls to be published on December 9 and final rolls on February 7, 2026
% of enumeration forms distributed by State
Andaman & Nicobar 89.22%
Chhattisgarh 63.75%
Goa 99.99%
Gujarat 88.08%
Kerala 49.55%
Lakshadweep 100%
Madhya Pradesh 53.83%
Puducherry 93.04%
Rajasthan 70.94%
Tamil Nadu 78.09%
Uttar Pradesh 69.95%
West Bengal 88.8%
Source: Election Commission

Final rolls by February

A total of 37,05,68,109 enumeration forms have been distributed in the 12 States and Union Territories – Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Goa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry. The number of electors as on October 27, 2025, in these States stands at 50,99,72,687.

The house-to-house enumeration process will take place for a month, from November 4 to December 4, and the draft rolls will be published on December 9.

Between December 9 and January 8, the voters can file claims and objections, while notices will be issued and hearings and verifications will take place from December 9 to January 31. The final electoral rolls will be published on February 7.

Lakshadweep has topped the list covering all but one voter – 57,812 of 57,813 voters or nearly 100% till 3 p.m. on Wednesday, while Goa is a close second, having covered 99.99% or just 119 of 11.85 lakh voters left to be given enumeration forms.

Kerala is lagging behind other States with only 49.55% having been covered. The State had notably sought that the SIR process be postponed due to the upcoming local body polls.

West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, which witnessed large-scale demonstrations against the SIR, have covered 88.8% and 78.09% voters, respectively, who appear in the rolls as on October 27.

In West Bengal, forms of 6.80 crore of 7.66 crore voters have been distributed, while in Tamil Nadu, it was five crore out of a total of 6.41 crore.

In Madhya Pradesh, 53.83% of forms have been distributed, while Chhattisgarh recorded 63.75% coverage, along with Uttar Pradesh at 69.95%.

In Gujarat, 88.08% forms have been distributed, the corresponding figures in Rajasthan were 70.94%, Puducherry 93.04% and Andaman and Nicobar 89.22%.

The EC said in a statement that printing of enumeration forms has been completed in all States except Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

In Madhya Pradesh, 95.54% of enumeration forms have been printed, while in Rajasthan it was 99.58%, West Bengal 99.75% and Uttar Pradesh 99.99%.

Trinamool accuses EC of issuing orders favouring BJP during SIR in Bengal

Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party once again locked horns over the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal on Wednesday, with Trinamool MP Kalyan Banerjee accusing the Election Commission (EC) of issuing orders 'favouring' the BJP.

He was referring to an EC notice dated November 11, allowing the appointment of political party-affiliated booth-level agents (BLAs) for a certain polling station, who might be electors at a different polling booth in the same Assembly constituency. "Earlier, the criterion was that the BLA has to be [an elector] of the same booth where they are being appointed, so they can help officers of that booth. Since the BJP cannot appoint BLAs within the same polling booths in around 75% cases, the Election Commission passed an order in their favour... They relaxed a stringent condition to accommodate the BJP," Mr Banerjee alleged.

'Earlier, the criterion was that the BLA has to be of the same booth where they are being appointed'

'Totally biased'

The EC's notice to the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of all States and Union Territories modified its earlier guideline, saying that "in case of unavailability of BLA from the same part of the electoral roll, BLA may be appointed from any registered elector of the same Assembly constituency."

Mr. Banerjee alleged that the notice was "proof that the electoral body is working to ease the BJP's problems, and no one else's", asking why the EC deviated from its own previous guideline. "The Election Commission is totally biased... The way the EC is destroying its own institutional legacy," he said.

Citing the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, he said the electoral roll of 2002 cannot be taken into account by law, as West Bengal had undergone a delimitation exercise in 2009.

BJP response

The Leader of Opposition of the West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari responded to the Trinamool's allegations, asking why BLAs cannot hail from a different booth during an SIR, given that, during elections, polling agents can hail from a different booth in the same constituency.

Trinamool slams BJP MP over remarks on Bengal CM

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress leadership on Wednesday slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over its MP Shantanu Thakur's derogatory remarks about Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

"Misogyny isn't an accident in @BJP4India, it's their political culture. From the Prime Minister down to his foot soldiers, they have institutionalised the degradation of women in public life. Every time they fail to match Smt. @MamataOfficial's courage, clarity, and conviction, they resort to gutter-level abuse," a post from the All India Trinamool Congress on their official social media handles said.

"Have you recently seen the face of Mamata Banerjee? Her face has dried up like a mango seed," Mr. Thakur was heard saying in a video from a public meeting.

Trinamool Congress said that repeated attacks on Ms. Banerjee show a "*Nari-Birodhi*" side of the BJP leadership.

Tejashwi Yadav slams 'pressure-driven' exit polls, says huge voter turnout signals change

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Slamming the Bihar exit polls, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav alleged that they were published by media houses even while people were still standing in the queue to cast their votes in the Assembly election on Tuesday.

Despite nine exit polls projecting a decisive majority for the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Bihar, Mr. Yadav predicted that the Opposition *Mahagatbandhan* (Grand Alliance) would make a "clean sweep" of the polls.

"This kind of survey has been conducted under pressure. This is the same 'Godi Media' which has captured Islamabad and Karachi. This is the same media which ran the news that Bollywood actor Dharmendra*ji* passed away, and BJP leaders like Yogi Adityanath issued condolence messages as well," Mr. Yadav said at a press conference at his Patna residence.

He said the media were not highlighting the sample sizes used in exit poll surveys.

Victory ahead: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav addressing presspersons at his residence in Patna on Wednesday. R.V. MOORTHY

They simply showed whatever the Prime Minister's office and Home Minister Amit Shah decided, he alleged.

'Huge vote for change'

"Compared with the 2020 Assembly election, 72 lakh more people have cast their vote. Divided by 243 Assembly constituencies, that amounts to over 29,000 more votes per Assembly constituency. This huge vote is for change, the government is going to change, the 72 lakh votes are not to save Nitish Kumar but to change his government," said Mr. Yadav, the Chief Ministerial candidate of the Opposition alliance.

Mr. Yadav noted that exit polls had predicted defeat for the current ruling parties in Jharkhand and West Bengal in the Assembly elections, and also wrongly projected more than 400 seats for the NDA in last year's Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Yadav warned that attempts may be made to slow down the counting of votes on Friday, adding that fear would be created by holding flag marches by the military in every district.

"Let them do anything, this time there will be a clean sweep for the Grand Alliance and we are going to get a massive victory. Our people are not afraid of anyone and there cannot be any cheating in the counting either. Our people are vigilant and keeping a close eye on the counting centres," he said, expressing confidence that he would take oath as Chief Minister on November 18.

Claiming that feedback from the ground clearly indicates that the atmosphere in Bihar favours the INDIA bloc, Mr. Yadav insisted that there was no "ifs and buts" about its victory.

"The people of Bihar are well aware of the tactics being employed by the NDA to create psychological pressure through exit polls. Our party workers will respond to all their plots, and at every level, workers will stand up to protect democracy and democratic rights. These tricks used by the NDA allies last time will not work this time," the RJD leader said.

"Bihar is the mother of democracy, and we will strongly oppose any action that weakens democracy and will confront the government's manipulations at every level. The people of Bihar will give a befitting reply to their dishonesty," he added.

Preparations begun

Ahead of the counting on November 14, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday visited Hanuman Temple near Patna junction and then paid a visit to the High Court Dargah to offer Chaadar and also visited Takht Sri Patna Sahib Gurudwara.

Preparations for celebrations have begun at the home of Janata Dal (United) candidate Anant Singh, with large quantities of sweets being made to distribute among his supporters, though Mr. Singh himself is currently in jail in connection with the murder of Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) supporter Dular Chand Yadav.

HC flags delay in filing appeals on disclosure of PM Modi's degree

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday flagged the delay by a batch of petitioners in filing appeals challenging an order on the disclosure of the details of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bachelor's degree from Delhi University.

Narendra Modi

A Bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela directed the Delhi University to submit its reply within three weeks to the applications explaining the delay in moving the appeals.

The court listed the matter for further hearing on January 16, 2026.

The Bench was hearing the appeals filed by Right to Information activist Neeraj, Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh, and advocate Mohammad Irshad against a single judge's August 25 order, which had set aside a Central Information Commission decision directing the disclosure of Mr. Modi's degree.

During the hearing, counsel for the petitioners contended that there were fundamental errors in the order passed by the single judge.

Noting that there was a delay in filing the appeals, the court asked Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, representing Delhi University, to submit objections to the application seeking condonation of the delay.

"We need to condone the delay first. File your (Delhi University's) objections," the court said.

On August 25, the single judge had set aside the order, saying that only because Mr. Modi was holding a public office, it did not render all his "personal information" open to public disclosure.

Panel formed to review Bills seeking removal of Ministers facing serious criminal charges

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A 31-member Parliamentary Joint Committee headed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Aparajita Sarangi was constituted on Wednesday to review the three Bills that seek to remove Ministers – of Union and State governments, including Prime Minister and Chief Ministers – facing serious criminal charges.

The INDIA bloc decided to boycott the committee. The Opposition has argued that the intent of the proposed legislation is *malafide* and that it is futile to participate in a panel where the BJP will be in a majority. The Opposition has also cited the example of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Bofors case in 1987, which was boycotted by six major Opposition parties.

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) leader Supriya Sule has joined the committee.

Members on the panel

Breaking ranks with the INDIA bloc, Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) leader Supriya Sule has joined the parliamentary committee. All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen's Asaduddin Owaisi, YSRCP's S. Niranjan Reddy, and Akali Dal's Harsimrat Kaul Badal are other Opposition members.

Nominated Rajya Sabha member Sudha Murty is part of the panel. The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) was invited to join the panel, but did not respond.

The Lok Sabha had passed a resolution to refer the Bills to the joint committee soon after Home Minister Amit Shah had introduced the Bill in the Lower House during the Monsoon Session on August 20.

The three Bills, introduced by the Home Minister, are the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025; the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025; and the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill.

Union Cabinet clears new royalty rates of critical minerals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Caesium and rubidium will be subject to a royalty rate of 2% on the average sale price

Seeking to reduce import dependence and vulnerabilities in the supply chain of critical minerals, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the rationalisation of royalty rates of graphite, caesium, rubidium, and zirconium.

With the rationalisation structure, graphite, wherein royalty was previously sought on per tonne-basis (that is, a fixed amount for a specific weight of ore), will now be charged on an ad valorem basis.

Graphite with less than 80% fixed carbon content will be subject to 4% royalty of the average sale price, whilst that with 80% or more carbon content would attract 2%.

Caesium and rubidium would be subject to a royalty rate of 2% on the average sale price based on the specific metal contained in the ore produced. A royalty rate of 1% would apply to zirconium.

Promoting auction

In a statement, the Cabinet said that the decision to rationalise would promote the auction of mineral blocks of caesium, rubidium, and zirconium.

"Today's approval of the Union Cabinet on the rate of royalty will help the bidders to rationally submit their financial bids in the auction," the Cabinet statement emphasised.

Bombay HC criticises govt. over malnutrition deaths in Maharashtra's tribal regions

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday pulled up the Maharashtra and Union governments for an "extremely casual" approach over handling the malnutrition issue among infants in the State's tribal regions.

The Bench comprising Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Sandesh Patil was hearing a series of petitions filed over the infant deaths due to malnourishment in Amravati district's Melghat region, a tribal-dominant area, where chronic malnutrition has existed for years. The court called the situation "horrific", saying "the government should be concerned".

During the hearing, the petitioner drew attention to the fact that from June 2025 to date, 65 infants in the age group of 0-6 months had died due to malnutrition in Melghat. The court noted that despite several orders since 2001, the problem persists like a plague due to a lack of implementation of those directives.

However, the State government claimed these deaths happened due to pneumonia and not malnutrition. To this, the court asked, "Whether the 2001 court order to construct a multispecialty hospital in the area was actually implemented?" No answer was received.

'Extremely casual'

Calling out the State government, the court said: "This shows your seriousness on the issue. The approach is extremely casual, and many things need answers from you."

On the documents presented by the State reflecting the efforts taken, the court stated: "Everything looks good on paper, but far from reality."

The court ordered Principal Secretaries of Public Health, Tribal Affairs, Women and Child Development, and Finance departments to submit affidavits on the measures taken in detail and appear in court on November 24.

INBRIEF

India, Botswana announce cheetah translocation pact

India and Botswana on Wednesday formally announced the translocation of eight cheetahs from the African nation during the state visit of President Droupadi Murmu. Thanking her counterpart, President Duma Gideon Boko, and the people of Botswana, President Murmu assured Mr. Boko that India would take good care of the animals. Botswana will symbolically hand over the big cats to Ms. Murmu on Thursday. The two heads of state will preside over an event where five of the eight captured cheetahs will be released into a quarantine facility at the Mokolodi nature reserve, marking the symbolic handing over of the hunting cats to India by Botswana as part of Project Cheetah. PTI

MEA launches new version of Passport Seva Programme

The Ministry of External Affairs has rolled out the "upgraded version" of its Passport Seva Programme (PSP), the MEA said in a statement on Wednesday. The rollout included the Passport Seva Programme (PSP V2.0), the Global Passport Seva Programme and the e-passport for citizens in India and for the Indian citizens living abroad. The MEA described the introduction of e-passports alongside PSP V2.0 a "significant milestone for the Ministry". "The new and improved passport website and mobile app give users a better experience through features like auto-filled forms, simpler document uploads, and easy online payments...," the Ministry said.

India ninth worst affected by extreme weather: study

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

A new report, Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2026, published by Germanwatch, released at COP30 in Belém on Tuesday evening, finds that more than 832,000 people died, nearly 5.7 billion were affected, and economic losses exceeded $4.5 trillion (inflation-adjusted) from over 9,700 extreme weather events between 1995 and 2024.

Germanwatch is a Bonn-based environmental and development organisation that advocates for global equity and sustainability in climate policy.

India ranks ninth among the countries most affected during this period, facing recurring floods, cyclones, droughts, and increasingly severe heatwaves. "Countries such as Haiti, the Philippines, and India - all of which are among the ten most affected - face particular challenges. They are hit by floods, heatwaves, or storms so regularly that entire regions can hardly recover from the impacts until the next event strikes," said Vera Künzel, senior advisor on climate change adaptation and human rights at Germanwatch.

SC to examine if farmers are evading satellite surveillance

Chief Justice of India asks if farmers get together and decide when to burn stubble; court issues notice to Punjab and Haryana governments to submit latest reports on stubble-burning incidents

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday decided to examine if farmers were burning crop stubble when satellites were not overhead to avoid surveillance. Stubble burning is considered a major source of air pollution choking the national capital.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai appeared incredulous when the *amicus curiae*, senior advocate Aparajita Singh, told the judges that agriculturists waited for the surveillance satellite to pass overhead before putting the lighted match to the stalks. "They are delaying the burning in tune with the movement of the satellite," Ms. Singh submitted.

"Are you saying all the farmers get together and decide when to burn," Chief Justice Gavai reacted.

Ms. Singh submitted photographs and data collected from material posted online by a NASA scientist, who claimed to have analysed European and Korean satellites to conclude that stubble-burning had neither gone down or stopped. The *amicus curiae*, answering the Chief Justice's question, said satellites passed overhead at a specific time.

Choking fumes: A farmer burns stubble in Punjab. REUTERS

She referred to media reports of farmers on camera saying the State administrations had shared the timing of the satellites with the farmers.

Ms. Singh raised doubts, under these circumstances, about the veracity of data and information fed to the top court.

"The scientist has uploaded photographs showing the maze above Punjab. If this is true, it is alarming. Their count [of the number of incidents of stubble-burning] is not true," the *amicus curiae* submitted.

The court issued notice to the States of Punjab and Haryana to submit their latest reports on stubble-burning incidents.

In September, the top court had suggested a return to criminal prosecution of errant agriculturists, and even a separate law. The Centre had, however, maintained that it was a policy to take farmers along rather than put them behind bars.

At the time, the debate between the court and the government had broken out after Ms. Singh had pointed out that farmers continued to burn despite "humongous" efforts and funds spent by the Centre to wean them away from an annual practice, which dispels a cloud of toxicity across States in northern India.

Ms. Singh had said the situation on the ground returns to square one at the beginning of every winter season regardless of the extensive orders from the Supreme Court to curb stubble-burning.

The *amicus curiae* and several lawyers, including senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, urged the court to direct the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to upgrade anti-pollution restrictions in Delhi-NCR from the current GRAP III stage to the stricter GRAP IV measures, which involve a complete stop in construction and demolition activities. "Your Lordships have asked the CAQM to take steps in anticipation. The AQI has already breached 400. The CAQM must not wait for it to turn 'severe plus'. It should anticipate and take action now," Ms. Singh said.

The court scheduled the hearing on this issue on November 17.

Jaishankar meets Rubio at Canada G7 meeting

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Canada where Monday's terror strike near the Red Fort featured.

"Discussed our bilateral ties, focusing on trade and supply chains. Exchanged views on the Ukraine conflict, the Middle East/West Asia situation and Indo-Pacific," said Mr. Jaishankar on X after the talks, adding, "Appreciate his condolences on the loss of lives in the blast in Delhi."

Mr. Jaishankar also met Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand earlier in the day.

The terror attack drew messages of condemnation and condolences from across the world, including from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, incoming U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor and the Foreign Ministry of the United Arab Emirates.

"To our dear friend @narendramodi and to the people of India: Sara and I, and the people of Israel, send our deepest condolences to the families of the victims..." Mr. Netanyahu posted on social media.

Tuberculosis incidence falling in India by 21% a year: WHO report

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

India's tuberculosis (TB) incidence, with new cases emerging every year, fell by 21% – from 237 TB cases per lakh population in 2015 to 187 per lakh population in 2024 – almost double the pace of decline observed globally, at 12%, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) Global TB Report, 2025, the Union Health Ministry said in a release issued on Wednesday. This was one of the highest declines in TB incidence globally, outpacing reductions noted among other high-burden countries.

"India's innovative case finding approach, driven by the swift uptake of newer technologies, decentralisation of services, and large-scale community mobilisation, has led to the country's treatment coverage to surge to over 92% in 2024, from 53% in 2015 – with 26.18 lakh TB patients being diagnosed in 2024, out of an estimated incidence of 27 lakh cases," the release said.

The Ministry said this had helped reduce the number of "missing cases" – those who had TB but were not reported to the programme – from an estimated 15 lakh in 2015 to less than one lakh in 2024.

Also, there is no significant increase in the number of multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB patients in the country, adding that treatment success rate under the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan increases to 90%, ahead of the global treatment success rate of 88%.

India's TB mortality rate has also decreased from 28 per lakh population in 2015 to 21 per lakh population in 2024, reflecting significant progress in reducing deaths due to TB.

Since its launch in December 2024, India's flagship TB elimination mission, the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, has achieved extensive reach, screening over 19 crore vulnerable individuals for TB across the country, leading to the detection of over 24.5 lakh TB patients, including 8.61 lakh asymptomatic TB cases, the report said.

India leads global TB fight

India records one of the world's steepest tuberculosis declines, doubling global progress through innovation and outreach

- TB incidence fell 21% (2015–2024), from 237 to 187 cases per lakh.
- Treatment coverage rose from 53% (2015) to 92% (2024)
- 26.18 lakh diagnosed out of 27 lakh estimated cases
- The number of missing cases reduced from from 15 lakh (2015) to <1 lakh (2024)
- The treatment success rate in India was about 90%, against the global average of 88%
- TB mortality declined from 28 deaths per lakh to 21 deaths per lakh (2015–2024)

GI tag fee cut to ₹1,000; Minister promises backing for tribal goods

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced here on Wednesday that the application fee for the Geographical Indications (GI) tag had been reduced to ₹1,000 from ₹5,000.

At the inaugural Tribal Business Conclave, he urged tribal artisans to register and protect traditional products and crafts. He further promised the support of his Ministry in creating export and e-commerce linkages for tribal enterprises and international warehouses for their products.

Ministers Jual Oram and Piyush Goyal with a tribal entrepreneur at the business conclave on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The conclave, held by the Ministries of Tribal Affairs and Culture and the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, featured panel discussions and masterclasses on topics such as financing innovations for, and investments in, tribal enterprises, partnerships, industry linkages, and skilling.

Mr. Goyal said schools, universities, industries, and the government must work together to ensure that products made by tribal artisans reach the larger domestic and global markets. The Minister promised the full support of his Ministry and the DPIIT in this mission, by creating export and e-commerce linkages and facilitating international warehouses for tribal goods.

The conclave was part of the Government of India's Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh celebrations, to mark the 150th birth anniversary year of tribal icon Birsa Munda.

Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for coming up with the initiative.

GI tags distributed

The event also saw GI tag certificates being distributed for crafts and products such as *Kannadippaya* (bamboo mat) of Kerala, *Apatani* textile of Arunachal Pradesh, *Marthandam* honey of Tamil Nadu, *Lepcha Tungbuk* of Sikkim, *Bodo Aronai* of Assam, Ambaji white marble of Gujarat, and Bedu and Badri cow ghee of Uttarakhand.

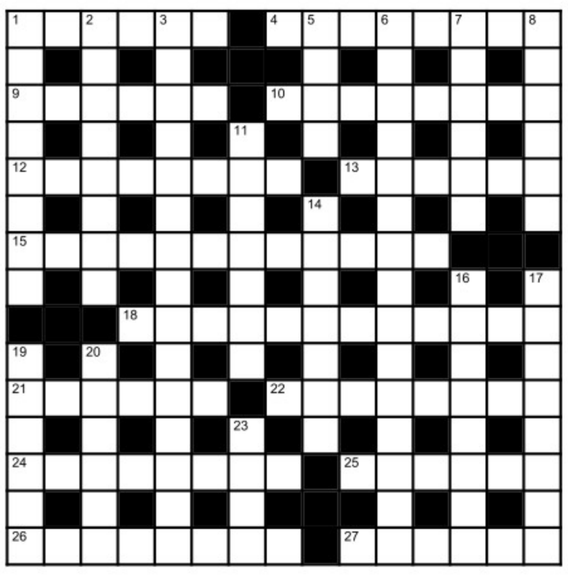
The Tribal Affairs Ministry announced a Tribal Affairs Grand Challenge, inviting enterprises to design solutions for tribal communities.

TH CROSSWORD + 14638

(set by Arden)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Storing cotton in the bar basement (6)
4 Right in the contre of good French resort (8)
9 Minion heading west with almighty friend (6)
10 Manage to include everyone - one is the Goddess of music (8)
12 Man withstood wild old beast (8)
13 Set aside some money, including private banks (6)
15 None can go faster than this brand of men's swimwear and escape (5,2,5)
18 Play the host, party, and the hours carry on (2,3,7)
21 Book publisher's covers framed Frost (6)
22 Composer's mad shrew, wallowing in drink (8)
24 Jailhouse for fliers (8)
25 Part of New York gets regular patrols in the border (6)
26 Chat counter (8)
27 Severe problems - indicates extreme life-threatening condition (6)

Down

1 European film on a professional writer (8)
2 Self introduction of Bill, the conman (8)
3 Also, change route and go to bed - difficult to believe? (3,4,2,2,4)
5 Grating no good for horse (4)
6 Long-handed bats rattle - get out with a bonus (6,9)
7 Wipe around top rim with a tool (6)
8 Enlightened action, nothing to provoke (6)
11 Scrubs the toilet, starts with flush and hand shower (7)
14 Fellow draws out first blood on the ship (7)
16 Comfortable about English law on uprising in parts of the ship (8)
17 Natural calamities suit man's fancy (8)
19 Shifting ice-cap makes one throw up (6)
20 You'll find it in wood lining, perhaps (6)
23 Income's sufficient for feeding people here (4)

SUDOKU

8					4		1	
	9					6	4	
				9		5		
	8			6		9		3
	3		9		7		5	
6		9		3			8	
		3		2				
	1	8					7	
	5		7					4

No.SS6699 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	5	9	8	4	6	3	2	7
6	3	4	1	2	7	9	8	5
8	2	7	9	3	5	4	1	6
9	1	3	6	7	8	2	5	4
5	4	8	2	9	3	6	7	1
2	7	6	4	5	1	8	3	9
4	6	1	5	8	2	7	9	3
7	9	2	3	1	4	5	6	8
3	8	5	7	6	9	1	4	2

FAITH

Unwavering devotion

True blessedness lies in unwavering devotion to God. Rather than wealth, noble birth, or fame, scriptures affirm that the most fortunate are those who constantly chant the divine name. Our tongue, a gift from God, achieves its highest purpose when used for sacred remembrance, leading to liberation and drawing us closer to the divine. Sri. Andal encourages continuous recitation of God's names – *"Ongi Ulagalandha Uttaman per padi."*

Prahalada, the child devotee, teaches the rarity of a human birth and the importance of dedicating it to God –*"Durlabham manusham janma."* The Upanishads urge our ears to soak in godly words –*"Karnabhyam bhoori visruvam"* – and our tongue to speak only honeyed speech – *"Jihva mey madhumatthama."*

Sri. Kesava Vajapeya Swamy, in his discourse, explains that no individual in this world possesses every excellent quality in equal measure. Some may be mentally strong and alert, blessed with intelligence, yet may lack physical strength, while others may have robust bodies but not keen minds. Most people approach God in prayer, seeking blessings such as health, wealth, peace, or happiness.

Hanuman, the supreme devotee of Lord Rama, is adorned with eight great qualities: skill, valour, fame, courage, fearlessness, freedom from disease, tirelessness, and eloquence in speech: *"Buddhir balam yaso dhairyam."* He stands as the embodiment of strength and devotion. Those who worship Lord Hanuman with faith and sincerity are blessed with his divine grace. His blessings fulfil righteous desires and bring physical vigour, mental steadiness, and spiritual upliftment.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	84,467	0.71
US Dollar	88.62	-0.13
Gold	1,27,900	1.58
Brent oil	62.66	-3.46

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2484.50	117.70
Adani Ports	1506.90	32.50
Apollo Hosp	7498.00	-3.00
Asian Paints	2769.80	112.60
Axis Bank	1221.60	-0.90
Bajaj Auto	8868.00	-27.00
Bajaj Finserv	2035.50	46.10
Bajaj Finance	1013.20	8.00
Bharat Elec	424.75	-2.55
Bharti Airtel	2073.80	31.50
Cipla	1519.30	4.40
Coal India	386.50	3.70
Dr Reddys Lab	1229.60	18.10
Eicher Motors	6879.00	6.00
Eternal Ltd.	308.80	3.00
Grasim Ind	2767.40	-8.40
HCL Tech	1594.00	24.00
HDFC Bank	989.50	-2.20
HDFC Life	783.10	19.20
Hindalco	794.40	0.65
Hind Unilever	2424.50	-3.00
ICICI Bank	1358.90	0.60
IntGlobeAvi	5795.50	13.00
Infosys	1551.70	21.40
ITC	407.00	0.15
Jio Financial Servic-es Ltd.	309.50	4.60
JSW Steel	1181.80	-9.70
Kotak Bank	2084.50	-2.40
L&T	3954.60	-0.40
M&M	3754.30	5.20
Maruti Suzuki	15696.00	51.00
Max Healthcare	1103.60	8.20
NestleIndia	1278.20	10.10
NTPC	327.15	0.50
ONGC	253.85	4.40
PowerGrid Corp	267.10	-0.55
Reliance Ind	1511.50	18.10
SBI Life	1996.70	-0.60
State Bank	957.15	3.85
Shriram Finance Ltd.	822.50	-9.80
Sun Pharma	1732.10	16.00
TataConsumerPro-duct	1162.00	5.80
Tata Steel	178.61	-2.43
TCS	3131.80	84.80
Tech Mahindra	1456.10	48.10
Titan	3851.10	38.70
Tata Motors CV	329.45	68.70
Tata Motors PV	402.15	-5.45
Trent Ltd.	4375.80	60.00
UltraTech Cement	11921.00	96.00
Wipro	245.22	3.53

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 12

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	88.47	88.80
Euro	102.39	102.78
British Pound	116.11	116.57
Japanese Yen (100)	57.12	57.35
Chinese Yuan	12.42	12.48
Swiss Franc	110.66	111.13
Singapore Dollar	67.86	68.13
Canadian Dollar	63.12	63.38
Malaysian Ringitt	21.37	21.50
Australian Dollar	57.81	58.03

Source:Indian Bank

SEBI panel proposes 'wider' conflict of interest regulations

High-level committee recommends office of ethics and compliance headed by an executive director-level officer to oversee framework

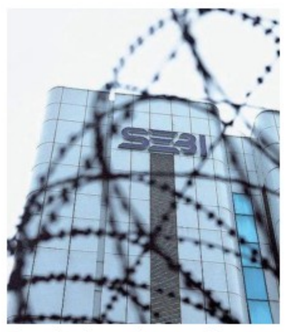
Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

A high level committee under markets regulator SEBI has proposed expanding the definition of family, strengthening disclosures and placing investment restrictions on board members under its new framework on overhauling conflict of interest regulations, according to a report released on Wednesday.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India had formed the high-level committee headed by former CVC chief Pratyush Sinha following allegations of violating conflict of interest regulations by former SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch, from which she was later exonerated.

The committee recommended the formation of an office of ethics and compliance headed by an executive director level officer to oversee the framework.

Significant proposals include the expansion of the definition of family to "any person for whom the member/employee serves as a legal guardian and any other person related to, by blood or marriage to the employee or to his spouse and substantially dependent on such employee." These rules will apply to employees and board members.



The chief compliance officer will be the nodal officer to oversee the recusal process.

In the 2008 guidelines, the definition of family was limited to spouse and children. Further, the word 'relative' will now be defined akin to the Companies Act, 2013, and will be applied to both members and employees. The list of relatives in companies rules 77(2) includes parents, spouse, children and their spouses, and siblings. This definition is in addition to the existing definitions in SEBI rules.

Investment restrictions will, however, be applied only to family members as defined in the new framework, the report stated.

The committee also recommended multiple levels of conflict of interest management. "The committee recommends initial, annual, event-based and exit [on the date of demitting office in SEBI] disclosures of assets, liabilities, trading activities and family and other relationships for board members and employees to SEBI's proposed Office of Ethics and Compliance (OEC) and the Oversight Committee on Ethics and Compliance (OCEC)," the report stated.

The committee proposed the chairperson, whole time members (WTM), executive directors, and chief general managers disclose assets and liabilities. All other employees must make internal disclosures. Part-time members shall not be subjected to the disclosure norms as they are not involved in the day-to-day activities of SEBI, the committee said. On lateral entry, the chairperson and WTMs must make disclosure of "actual, potential, and perceived conflicts," the committee proposed defining each of them.

The chairperson and WTMs will be allowed to invest in mutual funds and similar products as long as they do not exceed one-fourth of their portfolios.

The committee also recommended that SEBI put in a "robust framework" to decide on recusal in case of conflict of interest.

The chief compliance officer will be the nodal officer to oversee the recusal process. It was also proposed that the summary of the recusals be mentioned in the annual reports.

First day, first show: Dignitaries at the listing ceremony of Tata Motors. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tata Motors shares get listed at 26% premium post demerger

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Shares of the commercial vehicles division of the erstwhile combined Tata Motors were listed on the stock exchanges on Wednesday at a premium of over 26% to its implied value of about ₹261.90 per share on the BSE. The listing follows the demerger of the division from the passenger car business effective October 1.

The company that now houses the commercial vehicles business is called Tata Motors Ltd. (TML), while the passenger car business, which also includes electric vehicles and Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), is now a separate company called Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd.

Tata Motors shares opened at ₹330.25 on the BSE on Wednesday and closed at 327.65, down 0.79% from the listing price, due to profit booking. The shares are trading under the symbol TMCVL.

During the day, the shares hit the day's high of ₹346.75, its upper price band, and a low of ₹318.

On the first day of listing, the company had a full market cap of ₹1,20,651.59 crore.

'Clear roadmaps'

Speaking at the listing ceremony Tata Sons and Tata Motors Ltd. chairman N. Chandrasekaran said the separation was necessary to create two financially strong and independent companies with clear roadmaps. He said Tata Motors was working on electrification, hydrogen trucks, new energy buses and other technologies.

Commenting on the listing of Tata Motors, Jahol Prajapati, research analyst, SAMCO Securities, said, "The listing is a major step in unlocking long-term value. The demerger separates the fast-growing passenger vehicle and EV business from the more stable, cash-generating CV business, allowing investors to value each on its own strength."

INBRIEF

Govt. okays Export Promotion Mission with ₹25,060 cr. outlay

The Centre on Wednesday approved an Export Promotion Mission with an outlay of ₹25,060 crore for six financial years, beginning this fiscal, a move which will help exporters deal with high tariffs imposed by the U.S. The mission will be implemented via two sub-schemes - Niryat Protsahan (₹10,401 crore) and Niryat Disha (₹14,659 crore). It is a very comprehensive mission and will support the export ecosystem, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said. PTI

SpiceJet net loss widens to ₹635 cr. in September quarter

SpiceJet on Wednesday reported widening of net loss to ₹635.42 crore in September quarter FY26 as multiple factors, including foreign exchange loss, additional expenses related to grounded as well as re-inducted aircraft and airspace curbs, hit the budget carrier's bottom line. The airline, which had faced multiple headwinds, recorded a net loss of ₹447.54 crore in the year-ago period and expects positive financial performance in second half of the current financial year. PTI

Tata Steel Q2 PAT surges threefold to ₹3,183 crore

Tata Steel Ltd., for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025 reported a more than threefold growth in consolidated net profit to ₹3,183 crore from ₹759 crore in the year-ago period. Consolidated turnover for the quarter dropped 1.34% to ₹53,178 crore. The India business reported a net profit of ₹4,215 crore as compared with ₹3,460 crore a year ago, up 22 %. Turnover of the India business grew 12% to ₹34,787 crore from ₹31,137 crore a year ago.

Ashok Leyland Q2 net rises 7% to ₹756 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Ashok Leyland Ltd. reported 7% growth in Q2 consolidated net profit – attributed to owners of the company – to ₹756 crore from ₹706 crore in the year-ago period.

During the quarter, revenue increased 9% year on year (YoY) to ₹10,544 crore. The board has recommended a 100% interim dividend of ₹1 per share on shares with face value of ₹1.

The export volumes for the quarter were at 4,784 units, up 45% YoY.

Puri, Canadian minister discuss hydrocarbons trade

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri met Canada's Minister for International Trade Maninder Sidhu on Wednesday to discuss bilateral hydrocarbon trade between the two nations. Mr. Puri wrote on social media that the bilateral hydrocarbons trade that scaled $226.45 million in the fiscal year 2024-25 also had a "substantial upside potential".

The meeting was part of Mr. Sidhu's official visit to India wherein the North American country is seeking to "find opportunities to advance trade and investment linkages" between the two nations.

Ottawa is seeking to diversify avenues for hydrocarbons exports, and is at the receiving end of the Trump tariff regime.

Venu Srinivasan halted new inductions in Sir Ratan Tata Trust

Raghuvir Srinivasan
CHENNAI

Neville, Bhat appointments should not have been listed under 'any other items', he had said

The Tata Trusts meeting on November 11 was not without drama.

Venu Srinivasan, a trustee in the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) and its Vice-Chairman, is learnt to have objected to the manner in which a resolution proposing to appoint Neville Tata and Bhaskar Bhat as trustees was brought up.

The matter was not listed in the agenda. Neville and Bhat were appointed trustees of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) at its board meeting that preceded the SRTT meeting.

SRTT and SDTT are the two biggest in the family of Tata Trusts and collectively hold a little over 51% in Tata Sons.

According to a person present at the board meetings on Tuesday, Mr. Srinivasan pointed out that such a matter should not have been brought up under "Any other items for discussion" in the agenda. He is reported to have said that a "proper discussion" was necessary, for which the resolution should have been listed in the agenda.

In the Trusts meeting on Tuesday, SDTT was taken up first, followed by SRTT. Mr. Srinivasan, who attended the meeting virtually, was not part of the SDTT meeting as his appointment had to be confirmed in line with the Ordinance passed by the Maharashtra government on September 1.

The Ordinance caps the tenure of trustees to three years and limits the number of lifetime trustees.

In the SDTT meeting, lawyer and trustee Darius Khambatta and ex-Citibanker, Pramit Jhaveri, are learnt to have proposed the appointment of Neville Tata as trustee, while Noel Tata proposed Bhaskar Bhat.

According to the source, who did not want to be identified, fellow trustee Vijay Singh was taken aback by the move, but fell in line.

The meeting also resolved to disband the executive committee that was running the Trust, thus vesting final powers with Chairman Noel Tata. The committee had earlier comprised Srinivasan, Vijay Singh, Noel Tata and Mehli Mistry (until his term ended).

(The writer is the Editor, The Hindu businessline)

MSMEs seek measures to address funding gap

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

MSMEs need measures to address the funding gap the sector faces, president of the Coimbatore District Small Industries Association M. Karthikeyan said at a pre-budget meeting with MSME associations organised by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The MSMEs need ₹30 lakh crore, according to a Reserve Bank of India report. The number of new loan accounts has reduced. And, the fund requirement of the MSMEs in the manufacturing sector is higher, he said.

The association also sought a subsidy for MSMEs that wanted to go in for rooftop solar systems. The MSMEs faced labour shortage and hence those opting for automation should be encouraged. Investment in capital should include these factors and the enterprises should be extended a 12-year loan at low interest rates, he said.

M.P. Muthurathinam, president of the Tiruppur Exporters and Manufacturers Association, sought loans for MSMEs at lower interest rates and a special package to revive MSMEs that were ailing.

RAJASTHAN STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY
(A body constituted under Rajasthan State Highways Act, 2014)
Corporate Office: Nirman Bhawan, Jacob Road, Civil Lines, Jaipur-302006
E-mail: ho.rsha@rajasthan.gov.in

No. As Per RajKaj ref no. 18677629 Date: 06/11/2025

Short Term NIT No.39/2025-26

INVITATION OF BIDS FOR TOLL COLLECTION

Bids for **Collection of User Fee on Sayla-Bagoda-Gudamalani Section of SH-16B IN THE STATE OF RAJASTHAN** are invited from interested bidders upto 11:00 AM on 14.11.2025. Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state. The estimated value of Annual Remittance is **Rs. 3,98,32,040/-**
UBN No: PWD2526SLOB16442

Email: ho.rsha@rajasthan.gov.in
Tel: +91-141-2223547
Member (Technical), RSHA, Jaipur

DIPR/C/16494/2025

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Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252613 005357	Procurement of Rubberizing of PMC#3 Speed Sizer Rolls (One Set Consists of One Fixed Applicator Roll & One Movable Applicator Roll)	27.11.2025
252613 005618	Procurement of Burnt Lime for Production of Wet Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (WPCC)	19.11.2025
252613 005632	Procurement of WPCC (Wet Precipitated Calcium Carbonate) - 20 %	19.11.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites: **www.tnpl.com / www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/6129/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त- धौलपुर
कमांकः दिनांकः- 03.11.2025

निविदा सूचना संख्या : 10/ 2025-26

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से जिला धौलपुर में बजट वर्ष 2025-26 के अंतर्गत वृत धौलपुर के अधीन खण्ड धौलपुर, बाड़ी बसेड़ी एवं राजाखेड़ा के तहत् सड़क कार्य (दोष निवारण अवधि 5 वर्ष सहित) उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" एवं "www.sppp.raj.nic.in" पर देखा जा सकता हैं। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" पर रजिस्टर करवाना आवश्यक हैं।

S.N.	Package No.	NIB NO.	UBN No.
1	विधानसभा क्षेत्र धौलपुर में नॉन -पेचेबल / मिसिंग लिंक सड़कों का निर्माण कार्य RJ-13-01- NP/ML/2025-26	PWD2526 A4164	PWD2526 WSOB16193
2	विधानसभा क्षेत्र धौलपुर में नॉन - पेचेबल / मिसिंग लिंक सड़कों का निर्माण कार्य RJ-13-02-NP/ML/2025-26	PWD2526 A4164	16197
3	विधानसभा क्षेत्र बाड़ी में नॉन-पेचेबल/ मिसिंग लिंक सड़कों का निर्माण कार्य RJ-13-03- NP/ML/2025-26	PWD2526 A4164	16200
4	विधानसभा क्षेत्र बसेड़ी में नॉन-पेचेबल/ मिसिंग लिंक सड़कों का निर्माण कार्य RJ-13-07- NP/ML/2025-26	PWD2526 A4164	16201
5	विधानसभा क्षेत्र राजाखेड़ा में नॉन-पेचेबल/ मिसिंग लिंक सड़कों का निर्माण कार्य RJ-13-11- NP/ML/2025-26	PWD2526 A4164	16203
6	विधानसभा क्षेत्र राजाखेड़ा में नॉन-पेचेबल/ मिसिंग लिंक सड़कों का निर्माण कार्य RJ-13-12- NP/ML/2025-26	PWD2526 A4164	16209

DIPR/C/16365/25
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. वृत्त धौलपुर

Government of Tamil Nadu
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
Superintending Engineer (H)
Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan Circle, Saidapet, Chennai -15.

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: 08/2025-26/CMDP/DO/dated.11.11.2025
(Online only)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu **Item Rate tender under Two cover system through online only for Division I work of** "Construction of Six lane High Level Bridge across Rajakilpakkam Eri to Link Tambaram Eastern Bypass with Marmalong Bridge Irumbuliyur Road near Madambakkam junction" will be received upto **15.12.2025, 15.00 Hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H), Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan Circle, Saidapet, Chennai -15

Detailed Scope of work, approximate value, EMD, availability of tender document and all other details are available from **17.11.2025** onwards in the Government website **https://www.tntenders.gov.in**. If any Changes / Corrections / Amendments etc to the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer(H)
DIPR/6100/TENDER/2025 **CMDP Circle, Saidapet, Chennai -15.**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
DEPARTMENT OF HANDLOOMS

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders with two cover system are invited from the eligible bidders for the purchase of 40s Combed Dyed Cotton Cone Warp Yarn and purchase of 155/34D Grey Polyester Texturised Yarn and 130/34D Dyed Polyester Texturised Yarn for Supply of Uniform Scheme A.Y. 2026-27.

Variety of yarn	Required Quantity (in MT)	Required Earnest Money Deposit in (Rs.)	Date and time of availability of Bid Document in the web portal	Last date and time for receipt of online submission of filled Bid Documents	Date and time of online opening of Bids		Supply Period
					Technical Bids	Financial Bids	
40s Combed Dyed Cotton Cone Warp Yarn	1071.00	10,00,000/-	13.11.2025 to 27.11.2025 Upto 02.00 pm.	27.11.2025 Upto 02.00 pm.	27.11.2025 At 03.00 pm.	Will be intimated later	55 days
155/34D Grey Polyester Texturised Yarn	549.00	10,00,000/-	13.11.2025 to 27.11.2025 Upto 02.30 pm.	27.11.2025 Upto 02.30 pm.	27.11.2025 At 03.30 pm.	Will be intimated later	55 days
130/34D Dyed Polyester Texturised Yarn	793.00						

Eligibility of the Tenderer and other conditions are stipulated in the Bid Document.
1. Complete E-Tender Documents can be viewed and downloaded **free of cost** from Government e-tender website **https://tntenders.gov.in**
2. **E-Tender Documents :**
   (i) Tender Schedule - I - Purchase of 40s Combed Dyed Cotton Cone Warp Yarn (S.No.2026-27/U-C/001)
   (ii) Tender Schedule – II – Purchase of Polyester Texturised Yarn (S.No. 2026-27/U-PTY/002)
3. The Bidders have to participate through online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class III.

Pre Bid Meeting: There will be a pre-bid meeting on **20.11.2025** at **11.30 a.m** at the Conference Hall of the Directorate of Handlooms, Chennai-104.

Contact: Joint Director (Uniforms)
Telephone: 044-25358715
E-mail ID: tenderwing2024@gmail.com
DIPR/6077/TENDER/2025
Joint Director (Uniforms)/ Tender Inviting Authority

MOSCOW

Russia ready to resume talks with Ukraine: Foreign Ministry official

REUTERS

Russia is ready to resume peace negotiations with Ukraine in Istanbul, Russian state news agency TASS cited a Foreign Ministry official as saying on Wednesday. "The Russian team is ready for this, the ball is in the Ukrainian court." No face-to-face talks have taken place between the two sides since they met on July 23. REUTERS

BAGHDAD

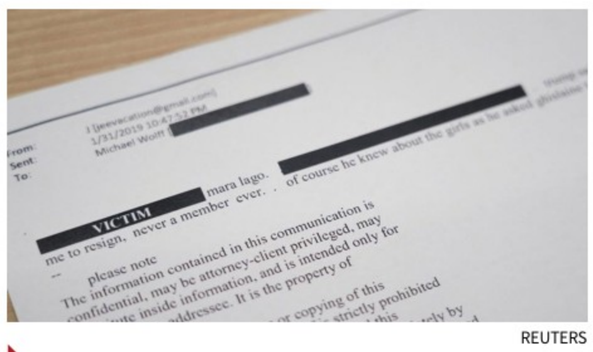
Iraq's Sudani secures a 'major victory' in election, say sources

AP

Incumbent Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani has scored a big win in general elections, sources said on Wednesday. His bloc reportedly "secured around 50 seats". Seeking a second term, Mr. Sudani must balance ties with Iran and the U.S. while tackling corruption, unemployment, and poor infrastructure. AFP

WASHINGTON

Democrats release Epstein papers saying Trump 'knew about girls'


VICTIM
mara lago.
of course he knew about the girls as he asked
me to resign, never a member ever.
please note
The information contained in this communication is
confidential, may be attorney-client privileged, may
contain inside information, and is intended only for
addressee. It is the property of
or copying of this
strictly prohibited

REUTERS

Convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein said Donald Trump "knew about the girls" that Epstein was accused of victimising, according to emails released on Wednesday by U.S. House of Representatives Democrats, which the White House blasted as a "fake narrative to smear President Trump". REUTERS

ANKARA

Turkiye says all 20 troops on board were killed in Georgia plane crash

AFP

Turkiye's Defence Ministry said on Wednesday that 20 soldiers were killed in the crash of its military aircraft in Georgia a day earlier, as inspectors continued to seek clues what caused the NATO member's cargo plane to go down. The C-130 plane took off from Azerbaijan for Turkiye and crashed in Georgia on Tuesday. REUTERS

Masked Israeli settlers attack two Palestinian villages in West Bank

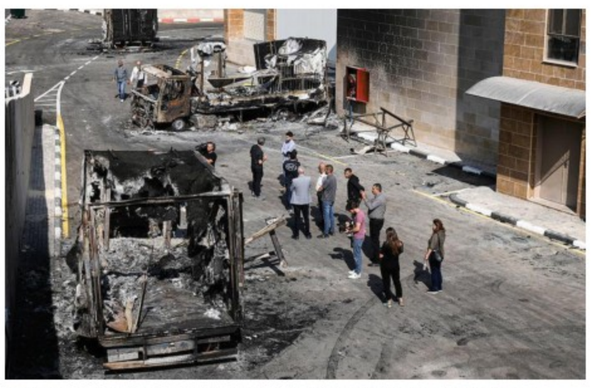
Israeli forces intervened, leading to clashes between soldiers and settlers; four Israelis were arrested, and four Palestinians injured; UN reports a record number of over 260 settler attacks on Palestinians in October this year, the highest since 2006

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Dozens of masked Israeli settlers attacked a pair of Palestinian villages in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday, setting fire to vehicles and other property before clashing with Israeli soldiers sent to halt the rampage, Israeli and Palestinian officials said.

It was the latest in a series of attacks by young settlers in the West Bank.

Israeli police said four Israelis were arrested in what it described as "extremist violence," while the Israeli military said four Palestinians were wounded. Police and Israel's Shin Bet internal security agency said they were investigating.



Palestinians survey damage in an industrial zone, following an attack by Israeli settlers in the West Bank, on Wednesday. AP

Videos on social media showed two charred trucks engulfed in flames, with a nearby building on fire. Settler violence has surged since the war in Gaza erupted two years ago. The attacks have intensified in recent weeks as Palestinians harvest their olive trees in an annual ritual.

The UN humanitarian office last week reported more Israeli settler attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank in October than in any other month since it began keeping track in 2006. There were over 260 attacks, the office said.

Palestinians and human rights workers accuse the Israeli army and police of failing to halt attacks by settlers. Israel's government is dominated by West Bank settlers, and the police force is overseen by Cabinet Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, a hardline settler leader.

In Tuesday's incident, the army said soldiers initially responded to settler attacks in the villages of Beit Lid and Deir Sharaf. It said the settlers fled to a nearby industrial zone and attacked soldiers sent to the scene and damaged a military vehicle.

Palestinian official Muayyad Shaaban, who heads the government's Commission against the Wall and Settlements, said the settlers set fire to four dairy trucks, farmland, tin shacks and tents belonging to a Bedouin community.

He said the attacks were part of a campaign to drive Palestinians from their land.

Starmer says team united, after political coup reports

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

U.K. Prime Minister Kier Starmer told the House of Commons that his team was "united" after reports emerged on Tuesday night that a political coup to overthrow him was under way. The *Guardian* was the first to report on briefings from senior Downing Street sources that U.K. Health Secretary Wes Streeting was heading a leadership challenge. Mr. Starmer's allies were quoted as saying that the Prime Minister would fend off any challenge , whether it occurred after the November 26 Budget or following a defeat in the May 2026 local elections.

Referring to the allegation against Mr. Streeting, Mr. Starmer said he had never authorised attacks on Cabinet Members and that any attack on them was "completely unacceptable". He went on to praise Mr. Streeting's record of opening up National Health Service (NHS) appointments since he assumed office last year.

Keir Starmer

Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch said the government had descended into "civil war" during PMQs.

The current government has been under pressure after signalling that it could break a manifesto promise and raise certain taxes in the upcoming Budget. It also faces a serious challenge from the nativist Reform UK Party, in next year's local elections.

Mr. Steering did the rounds of TV stations on Wednesday defending the Prime Minister and denying the allegations about him. "This sort of stuff is also not just irresponsible and unwarranted and categorically untrue," he told ITV. "What really made me angry this morning is some of the stuff that's come from Downing Street, saying the Prime Minister's fighting to save his own job. No, he's not. He's fighting to turn the country around," he added.

Pak. clears Bill to create Chief of Defence Forces post, set up a constitutional court

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's National Assembly on Wednesday passed the controversial 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill with a two-thirds majority during a ruckus-marred session, aiming to create a new position of the Chief of Defence Forces and set up a constitutional court.

The Bill, which had stirred controversy for weeks, was presented in the National Assembly by Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday, a day after the Senate approved the key legislation.

The National Assembly on Wednesday approved all 59 clauses of the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill amid Opposition's boycott, completing the clause-by-clause voting process. Jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party members tore up copies of the Bill and threw them towards the PM's chair.

Law Minister said the reform was an 'evolutionary process' undertaken with careful deliberation

National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq said the Bill received 234 votes in favour and four against.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari attended the lower house session.

The amendment was passed following a two-day-long debate. However, Opposition led by Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf boycotted the proceedings.

Law Minister Tarar described constitutional reform as an "evolutionary process" undertaken with careful deliberation. He said the draft had been thoroughly reviewed and discussed with bar councils and bar associations across the country.

'Participatory democracy key condition for my return, Yunus harming India ties'

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Ousted former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said her return home hinges on the restoration of "participatory democracy", lifting of the ban on the Awami League and the conduct of free, fair and inclusive elections.

In an exclusive email interview to PTI from an undisclosed location in India, Ms. Hasina also accused the unelected Yunus administration of "endangering ties with India and empowering extremist forces".

Sheikh Hasina

Contrasting her foreign policy with that of the current interim government, she said the "broad and deep" relationship between Dhaka and New Delhi should be able to withstand the "foolhardiness of the Yunus interlude".

Ms. Hasina thanked the Indian government for providing her refuge and said she was "immensely grateful to India's government and its people for their kind hospitality".

"The most important condition for my return to Bangladesh is the same condition that the Bangladeshi people require: a return to participatory democracy. The interim administration must rescind its ban on the Awami League and allow elections that are free, fair, and inclusive," she told PTI.

Ms. Hasina, Bangladesh's longest-serving Prime Minister, left the country on August 5, 2024, after weeks of violent anti-government protests. The massive agitation forced her resignation and eventual move to India, paving the way for the Yunus-led interim administration.

Protesters clash with security at Brazil's COP30

Reuters
BELEM

Dozens of Indigenous protesters forced their way into the COP30 climate summit venue on Tuesday and clashed with security guards at the entrance to demand climate action and forest protection.

Shouting angrily, protesters demanded access to the UN compound where thousands of delegates from countries around the world are attending this year's UN climate summit in the Amazon city of Belem, Brazil.

Some waved flags with slogans calling for land rights or carried signs saying, "Our land is not for sale."

Security guards pushed the protesters back and used tables to barricade the entrance. The protesters dispersed shortly after the clash.

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION UDAIPUR
Tel. No. 0294-2481538, e-mail: ace.uda.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
No/ACE/UDR/NIT_18(Udaipur Amrut)/2025-26/10948-10957 Dated 07.11.2025
Corrigendum-02
Following **Corrigendum-02** is hereby issued to this office **NIT No. 18/2025-26 (Work of Udaipur AMRUT 2.0) OLD DIPR No. C/14454/2025** in regarding change in dates due to decision of relaxing in PQ criteria, from competent authority is under process. Corrigendum can be seen in NIT exhibited on web site **www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.**
UBN No. PHE2526WLOB06998
(Shaitan Singh)
Addl. Chief Engineer,
PHED, Region Udaipur
DIPR/C/16572/2025

ANDHRA PRADESH CENTRAL POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Vidyut Nilayam, Corporate Office, ITI College Road, Vijayawada - 520 008
e-Tender Notice
APCPDCL is opting for e-tendering from the eligible bidders for Supply, Installation, Testing and Configuration of Software Defined-Wide Area Network (SD-WAN) devices along with necessary Hardware, Bandwidth Licenses, IPS & IDS security, necessary LAN Switches, 3KVA UPS equipments and Wall Racks at DC/Ibrahimpatnam, DR/Tirupati, Corporate Office, all Circle Offices, Division Offices, Sub Division Offices, Section Offices, EROs, Sub EROs, District Stores, SPMs and other Offices with 5 Years warranty & Support vide Bid No: **CGM/PROJ/APCPDCL/VJA/NIT-05/2025-26.** All the interested bidders may visit **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** to view details of the tender and download the details from **13.11.2025,18:00 Hrs**, the last date for Bid submission online is **27.11.2025, 16:00 Hrs.**
Phone No.: 0866-2956677 Sd/- Chief General Manager/Projects, APCPDCL, Vijayawada

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Office: Stores & Purchases Dept., K.H. Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
No: BMTC/CO/COSP/TENDER/10/2025-26 Date: 12.11.2025
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
BMTC Invites Tender for Procurement of the following Goods & Services through KPP portal:

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Last date for bid submission in KPP Portal
		Regular Tender	
1	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0203 CALL-2	Procurement of Volvo Air Suspension Spares	15-12-2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
2	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0205 CALL-2	Procurement of Volvo Radiator Assembly	27-11-2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
3	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0206 CALL-2	Procurement of Volvo Engine Spares	27-11-2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
4	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0208 CALL-2	Procurement of Volvo Electrical Spares	28-11-2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
5	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0221 CALL-2	Procurement of Curing Envelops & Bags	27-11-2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
6	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0231	Procurement of Masking Tape and Buffing Sheets	28-11-2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
7	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0232	Procurement of GHT Bolt with Nuts of Different Sizes	28-11-2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
8	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0233	Procurement of Reflective Tapes and Transparent sheet	28-11-2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
9	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0234	Procurement of Tyres, Tubes & Flap Sets, Tubeless Radial Tyres & Extra Tubes & Flaps	15-12-2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
10	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0235	Procurement of Aluminium Pop Rivets.	28-11-2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
11	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0236	Procurement of 2K PU Paints	15-12-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
Corrigendum: The last date & time for submission of tender in KPP-Portal is extended as under.			
12	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0214	Procurement of Steering Assembly & Components	15-12-2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
13	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0224	Procurement of ERW Square Tubes/Round Pipes.	28-11-2025 at 17:00 Hrs.

The above mentioned tender details can be obtained from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further any addendum/corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, other tender terms and conditions etc. will be uploaded/published through kpp portal only.
Note: Interested Bidders need to register in the KPP Portal. For further information visit BMTC Central Office or log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES AND PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
BUILDINGS (C&M) CIRCLE 1, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI - 600 005.
e-Tender Notice No. 73/2025-2026/BCMC-1/CHENNAI Dated: 11.11.2025
FORM OF CONTRACT: Lumpsum / SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE / (Online Only)
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, e-tenders will be received from the eligible Registered Contractors in Public Works Department by the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings Construction and Maintenance Circle-1, Chepauk, Chennai 600 005 for the work as mentioned below

Sl.No.	Name of Work	Approximate value of work	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit & Period of completion	Eligible Contractors
1	2	3	4	5
	Two Cover System			
1.	Construction of Emergency and Casuality, Radio diagnosis and Inpatient Wards Building etc., (Block-A) for Paediatric Post Graduate Institution of Medical Education and Research at King Institute Campus, Guindy, Chennai-32	Rs.10869.00 Lakhs	Rs.54,45,000/- 18 (Eighteen) Months	PWD Registered contractors Class- IA and above (Revised monetary limit)

NOTES :- 1. For tender documents and further details visit **"http://tntenders.gov.in"** 2. Last date for submitting the application for Site Visit Certificate to the concerned Executive Engineer **25.11.2025.** 3. Last date and time for submission of e-tender documents **28.11.2025** upto **3.00 PM.** 4.Date and time for opening of e-tender **28.11.2025** at **4.00 PM.** 5. In case of any Changes/Corrections/Amendments/Corrigendum in the tender/tender notice, it will be intimated in the website only. **"http://tntenders.gov.in"**
Superintending Engineer, PWD.,
Buildings (C&M) Circle-1, Chepauk, Chennai-5
DIPR/6094/Tender/2025

K-RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
Website: www.kride.in Email ID: praveen.kumar.kride@ka.gov.in
PUBLIC NOTICE
After completion of New Double Line works between **Karmelaram (CRLM)** (Bangalore Urban district of Karnataka) to **Belandur Road (BLRR)** (Bangalore Urban district of Karnataka) and **Huskur New Crossing station** (Bangalore Urban district of Karnataka) section of Baiyyappanahalli – Hosur doubling project , as part of statutory inspection by Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle, a speed trail by special train will be conducted in the same section on 16.11.2025, and during the speed trial, trains will run at a speed in excess of 120 Km/h on the newly laid Railway double Line and subsequently regular train services will be introduced on this Railway line. Public are hereby advised to be cautious and not to trespass the Railway line, which will endanger their lives. Trespassers are liable for prosecution, which may please be noted.
Sd/- General Manager/Civil/Projects
Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited
DIPR/CP/VCPL/3759/2025-26
@KridePrm Kride Bsrp Kride_bsrp KRIDE.BSRP

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
KUMBAKONAM CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Roc. No. 4570 / 2023 / E2 **TENDER NOTICE** **Dated : 07.11.2025**
Bids are invited by the **Corporation Commissioner, Kumbakonam** for the work of Construction of **Class A** Bus stand at Karuppur (newly added village), Sakkottal-Kumbakonam Municipal Corporation under Urban Infrastructure Development Fund.
1. Work Value **Rs. 42.90 Crore**
2. Earnest Money Deposit Amount: **Rs.42,90,000/-**
3. Bid document can be downloaded from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** from **17.11.2025** at free of cost and the full details of the tenders can be had from the above website.
4. **Common dates & time**
   1. Date and time of Pre bid meeting : **10.12.2025** at **11.00 AM**
   2. Last date and time for downloading bid documents : **18.12.2025** upto **3.00 PM**
   3. Last Date and time for submission of bid document, including online submission : **18.12.2025** upto **3.00 PM**
   4. Date and time of opening of the Technical Bid : **18.12.2025** at **3.30 PM**
5. In the event of specified date for submission of bids is declared as holiday bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
6. Any changes / modifications in this tender will be published in the above website only.
Commissioner,
Kumbakonam City Municipal Corporation.
DIPR/ 6109 /TENDER/2025

GEARED UP

We have put plans into place on how to play spin: ten Doeschate

PTI

After being ambushed last year by New Zealand's spinners at home, assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate said India's batters are looking to improve. "It's something we need to get better [at]. We've come up short a few times. Hopefully, we've learnt from the New Zealand series. We've put some plans into place [about] how to play spin."

GOOD GOING

Gill is doing very well as an all-format player: assistant coach

ANI

Assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate felt Shubman Gill was coping with responsibilities of being an all-format player very well. "It's super challenging. You're seeing less guys play all three formats. But Shuby has been very good. In the Australia [white-ball] series, there was a lot of travelling. We spent a lot of time watching the rain."

NARROW WIN

Agha and Rauf shine in Pakistan's victory over Sri Lanka in first ODI

AFP

Pakistan rode on a century from Salman Agha and four wickets from Haris Rauf to beat Sri Lanka by six runs in the opening ODI on Tuesday. **The scores:** Pakistan 299/5 in 50 overs (Agha 105 n.o., Hussain Talat 62, Wanindu Hasaranga 3/54) bt Sri Lanka 293/9 in 50 overs (Hasaranga 59, Rauf 4/61). **Toss:** Sri Lanka; **PoM:** Agha.

PRECAUTIONARY

Eight SL players set to return from Pakistan due to safety concerns

AFP

Eight Sri Lankan cricketers touring Pakistan for the three-match ODI series want to fly home after expressing concern over their safety following Tuesday's bombing in Islamabad, according to a Sri Lanka Cricket source. The development raised doubts on whether the second game in Rawalpindi on Thursday would go ahead.

Jurel set to feature as specialist batter, hints ten Doeschate

The 24-year-old has been in terrific form with the willow, slamming four hundreds in his last eight First Class innings; all-rounder Nitish being released from the Test squad also points towards the wicketkeeper-batter's inclusion in the XI

SA IN INDIA

N. Sudarshan
KOLKATA

Dynamic duo: Jurel and Pant will add flair to the Indian middle-order. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR & PTI

Teams generally tend to keep the cards close to their chest with regard to the selection of playing personnel. With the glorious exception of England - which plays cricket like poker but doesn't quite believe in the bluff beforehand, for it announces the Test XI at least a day prior - most teams keep onlookers guessing.

But ahead of the first Test between India and South Africa beginning from Friday at the Eden Gardens here, one player, through the sheer weight of his recent performances, has forced even the usually cagey Indian think-tank to all but confirm his selection - Dhruv Jurel.

India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate, on Wednesday, said that Jurel cannot be left out, and one can see why. In his last eight First Class innings, the wicketkeeper-batter has four hundreds, all of them 125 runs and above and two unbeaten, a 56 and a 44.

Against South Africa-A in Bengaluru recently, he made centuries in both essays of the second 'Test' and was named the Player-of-the-Series despite featuring in just one of two contests. Now, even with Rishabh Pant's return to fitness, Jurel - who deputised for the injured Pant against the West Indies in October - is set to play as a specialist batter.

"Given the way Jurel's gone in the last six months and scoring two hundreds in Bengaluru last week, he's certain to play," ten Doeschate said. "In Washi [Washington Sundar], Axar [Patel] and Jaddu [Ravindra Jadeja], you've actually got three batters. But I'd be very surprised if you don't see Jurel playing."

It is not an altogether new role for Jurel. He has been trusted as a pure batter by Rajasthan Royals in the IPL where Sanju Samson and Jos Buttler were ahead in the wicketkeeping pecking order.

Even for India, he has done this once before - in last year's victorious Perth Test in Australia where Pant kept gloves. But what Jurel also brings is a certain game awareness. Though the sample size is low, he has given out adequate hints that he is a master of shepherding the tail - in Rajkot in his debut Test where he made 46 at No. 8, in Ranchi in the second where he made 90 at No. 7 and in Bengaluru last week.

The 24-year-old's potential selection would mean that the development of all-rounder Nitish Kumar - who scored a big-bang hundred against Australia in Melbourne last year at No. 8 - will take a break, but ten Doeschate said strategy came first.

"Our position certainly hasn't changed on Nitish," ten Doeschate clarified about the player who has been released to play the upcoming one-day series for India-A against South Africa-A.

"The primary thing is to set up a strategy to win the game, and if you can accommodate giving guys chances for development, that comes in."

'India is a tough challenge anywhere in the world'

N. Sudarshan
KOLKATA

Leaders talk: Gill and Bavuma will be keen on a good start to the series. DEBASISH BHADURI

South Africa may be the reigning World Test Champion, but the magnitude of the challenge that awaits the side in the upcoming two-Test series in India was not lost on head coach Shukri Conrad. On Wednesday here at the Eden Gardens, he called it "the biggest challenge."

"India is a tough challenge anywhere in the world, and when you come to an iconic venue like Eden Gardens, it just makes it tougher," Conrad said ahead of Friday's opening Test.

"I don't think there's been a bigger challenge. Yes, we had the [WTC] final against Australia that we won, which was massive. I compare this series and this match to that final. That's how big it is for us."

But South Africa appears to have a capable bowling attack for this testing sojourn. A fast-bowling pack led by Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen, and a spin-bowling combination helmed by Keshav Maharaj are not to be trifled with.

"[With spinners] Keshav, Simon [Harmer] and Sen [Senuran Muthusamy]... I think it gives us a lot of confidence that we've got the armoury to challenge India," Conrad stated.

"[But] if history is to be believed, then there's always something for the fast bowlers at Eden Gardens. So I expect the fast bowlers on both sides to have an impact on the game, especially in the first couple of days, and for spin to come in slightly later. There are so many battles within the Test match, within this big war."

The 58-year-old was also relieved to have leader Temba Bavuma back after a two-month-long injury-induced hiatus.

The skipper returned for South Africa-A versus India-A in Bengaluru recently and scored a half-century in the successful 417-run chase.

"He's been one of the best players in the world. The calmness he brings to the batting unit, his leadership, his quiet demeanour... we get a lot of feel-good from that. We are thrilled that he got through the A game as well as he did."

Arjun, Harikrishna and Pragg stay in contention

CHESS WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ARPORA (GOA)

Staying alive: Harikrishna is one of the three Indians who will play Thursday's tie-breakers. P.K. AJITH KUMAR

No Indian won on Wednesday. That is something you hardly get to say in chess these days, but that has been the case for the last two days.

Two Indians, in fact, were knocked out of the chess World Cup at Resort Rio. But V. Pranav and Karthik Venkataraman can head for home with their heads held high as they were beaten by stronger rivals, Nodirbek Yakubboev of Uzbekistan and Le Quang Liem of Vietnam, respectively. They had done exceedingly well to have reached the round of 32: Pranav had started out as the 60th seed and Karthik as the 109th.

Three Indians now remain in contention, but to extend their stay, they will have to win their tie-breakers on Thursday. Arjun Erigaisi and R. Praggnanandhaa, seeds No. 2 and 3, were held by Hungarian Peter Leko and Russian Daniil Dubov, while P. Harikrishna, seeded 24th, also split the point with the lesser-rated Nils Grandelius of Sweden.

The other winner on the day was Alexander Donchenko, who overcame Matthias Bluebaum in an all-German battle. He also made it to the fifth round without having to play the tie-breakers.

Also making it to the last 16 were former champion Levon Aronian of Armenia and the Mexican Jose Martinez Alcantara. After winning on Tuesday, they needed only to draw in Game 2. About his 35-move draw with Radoslaw Wojtaszek of Poland, the articulate Aronian said, "My aim was to get the draw, so it was more like dribbling time out in the NBA."

Alcantara's reaction was a bit more prosaic after sharing the point with Alexey Sarana of Serbia. "I want to thank my supporters from Mexico and Peru, for whom I used to play earlier."

The results (fourth round):

Alexander Donchenko (Ger) 1.5 bt Matthias Bluebaum (Ger) 0.5; V. Pranav 0.5 lost to Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb).

Arjun Erigaisi 1 drew with Peter Leko (Hun); P. Harikrishna 1 drew with Nils Grandelius (Swe).

Radoslaw Wojtaszek (Pol) 1 drew with Levon Aronian (USA) 1.5; Shant Sargsyan (Arm) 1 drew with Frederik Svane (Ger) 1; Richard Rapport (Hun) 1 drew with Sam Shankland (USA) 1.

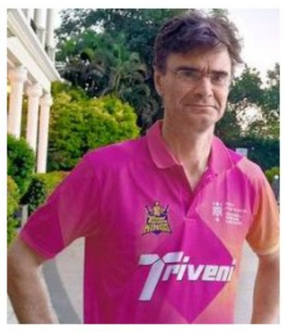
Aleksey Grebnev (Rus) 1 drew with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) 1; Daniil Dubov (Rus) 1 drew with R. Praggnanandhaa 1; Lorenzo Lodici (Ita) 1 drew with Samuel Sevian (USA) 1; Gabriel Sargissian (Arm) 1 drew with Awonder Liang (USA) 1.

Jose Martínez Alcantara (Mex) 1.5 drew with Alexey Sarana (Srb) 0.5; Parham Maghsoodloo (Ira) 1 drew with Wei Yi (Chn) 1; Karthik Venkataraman 0.5 lost to Le Quang Liem (Vie) 1.5.

Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) 1 drew with Yu Yangyi (Chn) 1; (Uzb); Vincent Keymer (Ger) 1 drew with Andrey Esipenko (Rus) 1.

'What is Kramnik's problem? It is not his job to get involved'

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ARPORA (GOA)



Loek van Wely. P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Loek van Wely was Vladimir Kramnik's second.

The Dutchman feels the former World champion should not have been making all those accusations against players like Daniel Naroditsky, the popular American Grandmaster who died tragically recently.

World chess governing body FIDE has filed a complaint about Kramnik to its Ethics Commission following its public allegations against Naroditsky and David Navara.

"I know when chess players have been under stress for such a long time and working so hard," van Wely told *The Hindu* here. "I have the feeling that the guy simply has lost it. You could see those crazy press conferences."

van Wely, a former World No. 10 who came here for the World Cup as coach of Max Warmerdam, thinks there was no need

for Kramnik to do all that. "The guy has had a beautiful career," he pointed out.

"What is his problem? It is not his job to get involved. It is not his speciality."

He, however, believes

> I feel that if you have to catch the cheats in chess you will probably have to violate the law, such as the ones regarding privacy

there is cheating in chess. "But you need to back up your claims," he says. "When I was in the Senate (in the Netherlands), and I was doing justice and security. I know a little bit about those things. I feel that if you have to catch the cheats in chess you will probably have to violate the law, such as the ones regarding privacy."

van Wely will be soon back in India, as coach of Triveni Continental Kings, whom he had guided to the title in both previous editions.

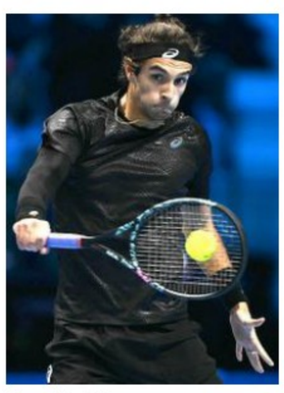
Felix and Musetti post first wins in the ATP Finals

Reuters
TURIN

Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime came from a set down to earn his first victory at this year's ATP Finals with a 4-6, 7-6(7), 7-5 win over American Ben Shelton in the Bjorn Borg Group on Wednesday.

Meanwhile in the Jimmy Connors Group on Tuesday, Italian Lorenzo Musetti also made a remarkable comeback from the brink to defeat Alex de Minaur 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 and stay alive.

After celebrating with his team, Musetti wrote a message on the television camera *fino alla fine* (Italian for 'until the end') – a slogan used by Juventus, the football club he supports, and one that perfectly matched this performance.



Musetti. AFP

All ears: Team members soak in Uppal's words of advice during a training session. K. MURALI KUMAR

Uppal wants India to be ambitious and fearless

BJK CUP

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

India captain Vishal Uppal wants his players to take a fearless approach in the Billie Jean King Cup playoffs which commences here on Friday. The likes of Sahaja Yamalapalli, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, Ankita Raina and others will face tough competition from Slovenia and Netherlands, but Uppal places immense faith in his crew.

"We want to take the court with the right energy and take the fight to our opponents. Our opponents are much higher ranked, but we like the underdog story. I want my team to be ambitious, be fearless," Uppal told *The Hindu* on the sidelines of a training session at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium here.

Uppal was the captain when India reached the playoffs for the very first time, in 2020. To make it this far again in a short period shows that Indian women's tennis is on the up and up, Uppal said.

"It shows you that women's tennis in India is heading the right way. Now we need to get more ambitious to go beyond the playoffs. It is very important to continue on the journey to growing the sport in India," the former men's national champion and Davis Cup player said.

Uppal is not averse to making bold line-up changes, as seen in the previous round (Asia/Oceania Zone Group I). "I'm pretty sure no one in Indian tennis would have imagined that Ankita will not play a singles match in Pune.

"But I had come up with this strategy after I studied the opponents and matchups. The good thing was that the whole team was on board with the plan," Uppal said.

INBRIEF

Jerlin to be India's flagbearer at Tokyo Deaflympics

Jerlin Jayaratchagan has been named India's flagbearer for the Tokyo Deaflympics starting Saturday. India will take part in 11 disciplines – athletics, badminton, golf, judo, karate, shooting, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, wrestling and tennis. Madurai's Jerlin, who made her debut in 2017 at the age of 13, won three golds in singles, mixed doubles and the team event at the 2022 edition in Brazil to become the first woman Deaflympian to receive the Arjuna Award. India finished ninth in Brazil with 16 medals (eight gold, 1 silver and seven bronze).

Indians disappoint in women's 50m 3-Position

Asian Games champion and World No. 2 Sift Kaur Samra's wait for a World Championship medal continued after finishing a dismal 48th in the 50m 3-position at the ISSF World Championships in Cairo on Wednesday. She was the worst of the three Indians in the fray with none qualifying for the final. Ashi Chouksey (588) and the experienced Anjum Moudgil (587) finished 15th and 17th respectively. The trio finished eighth as a team.

Anahat loses in China; Rathika enters Bondi Open semifinals

Anahat Singh went down 11-5 6-11 4-11 7-11 against Egyptian eighth seed and World No. 15 Sana Ibrahim in the China Open round of 16 in Shanghai on Wednesday. At the Bondi Open PSA Challenger event in Sydney, top-seeded Rathika Suthanthira Seelan progressed to the last-four stage. Rathika began by getting the better of compatriot Aaradhana Kasturiraj 11-8, 11-3, 11-5 and followed that with a 11-7, 11-3, 11-3 victory over Thaliand's Anantana Prasertratanakul in the quarterfinals.

Lakshya Sen advances in Japan Masters badminton

India's Lakshya Sen stormed into the men's singles second round at the Kumamoto Masters Japan badminton tournament with a 21-12, 21-16 win over Koki Watanabe in Kumamoto (Japan) on Wednesday. But it was end of the road for Kiran George and mixed doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde.

The results (first round): Men: Lakshya Sen bt Koki Watanabe (Jpn) 21-12, 21-16; Jing Hong Kok (Mas) bt Kiran George 22-20, 21-10.
Mixed doubles: Presley Smith & Jennie Gai bt Rohan Kapoor bt Ruthvika Shivani Gadde 21-12, 19-21, 22-20.

Yu stuns the swimming world again with Asian record time

Less than a month after her 13th birthday, China's Uu Zidi claimed her first Asian record at the National Games swimming in Shenzhen on Tuesday as she swept to victory in the 200m individual medley. Her time of 2:07.41 eclipsed the Asian mark of compatriot Ye Shiwen who won gold at the 2012 London Games in 2:07.57 at the age of 16.

High Performance Centre for basketball unveiled

The Basketball Federation of India (BFI) and ACG Sports Pvt Ltd unveiled India's first dedicated, year-round, residential basketball High Performance Centre at the Lakshyan Academy in Bengaluru on Wednesday. The launch of the centre is a pre-cursor to the inaugural season of the India Basketball League (IBL) to be held in 2026. The HPC houses three FIBA-standard courts, a strength and conditioning gymnasium and a world-standard 25-metre swimming pool.

LIVE TELECAST

Bangladesh vs Ireland: 1st Test, day 3,FanCode, 9.30 a.m.
Chess: World Cup, FIDE YouTube channel, 3 p.m.
Football: WC European Qualifiers, Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 & LIV, 10.30 p.m.

A chance for Tilak & Co. to test their mettle against a buoyant South Africa-A

The India-A players will want to make use of these three One-Dayers to stake their claim in the senior set-up; batters expected to shine at the venue

INDIA-A VS SA-A

Sahil Mathur
RAJKOT

Consistency is the hallmark of a good team and system, be it an international side or a domestic outfit.

For India-A, that consistency in selection, defined roles, and overall template reflects both immediate and long-term plans – developing players against testing oppositions such as South Africa-A.

The two sides meet in a three-match one-day series here, while their senior teams battle with the red ball in Kolkata and Guwahati.

Modus operandi: Parag's focus will be on keeping his attacking intent with the bat. VIJAY SONEJI

Though the spotlight will remain on the Tests, the selectors' gaze will also turn to the proceedings at the Niranjan Shah Stadium.

India-A, which played three One-Dayers against Australia-A in Kanpur in October, has retained eight members from that squad. The group largely features players who've either impressed in the IPL or shown steady domestic form.

The Kanpur series underlined the management's preference for an aggressive batting approach – Prabhsimran Singh and Riyan Parag led that intent, while Abhishek Sharma's role at the top fits the same template.

Ruturaj Gaikwad and Ishan Kishan join the mix this time. Ruturaj's anchoring style and the southpaw's attacking instincts offer balance. Tilak Varma will lead this side in place of Shreyas Iyer, who helmed the team in Kanpur. In bowling, Prasidh Krishna and Arshdeep Singh bring international experience, while Khaleel Ahmed will look to make a stronger case after several quiet outings.

The visitor, meanwhile, arrives buoyed by its remarkable 417-run chase in the recent four-day match in Bengaluru, led by Jordan Hermann and Marques Ackerman.

Stable core

Its core remains stable, with Jordan alongside his brother Rubin and Ackerman continuing to anchor the batting, and young Lhuan-dre Pretorius adding flair to the middle-order.

With both sides favouring attacking templates and Rajkot known for high scores, bowlers could be in for a long day, where even a 350-run target might not be enough.

They are superstars who've played a lot of T20 cricket: Ackerman

Sahil Mathur
RAJKOT

Despite the high of a stunning 417-run chase against India-A in the second multi-day fixture, South Africa-A will look to start afresh in the three-match one-day series at the Niranjan Shah Stadium here from Thursday.

Visiting captain Marques Ackerman described the two 'Tests' in Bengaluru – where the teams shared the series 1-1 – as a success but said the focus has now shifted entirely to white-ball cricket.

"We are coming from a lot of cricket – domestically and the two four-day games. The spirits are high, and we've had two good days of preparation. Looking forward to a very challenging and tough opposition," Ackerman said on the eve of the first One-Dayer.

Optimistic: Ackerman is confident of thwarting the threat posed by Tilak's men. VIJAY SONEJI

India-A boasts several high-profile names in its squad, including Tilak Varma, Abhishek Sharma, and Arshdeep Singh. But Ackerman was confident that his team would stick to its plans to put the hosts under pressure.

"We've looked at some footage of them. They are superstars who've played a lot of T20 cricket. This is 50-over cricket – a new game. What they've done in the IPL doesn't matter. We know they are strong and aggressive players," he said.

For several South Africans, this tour marks their first experience of playing in India, and Ackerman admitted that adapting to the conditions took some time.

"Just experiencing a different climate and acclimatising to the wickets was challenging at the beginning," he added. "There are a lot of exciting young guys coming through the ranks."

Deepshikha, Abhishek in compound mixed team final

ARCHERY

Sports Bureau

The Indian team of Deepshikha and Abhishek Verma reached the compound mixed team final to assure the country of another medal at the Asian archery championships in Dhaka on Wednesday.

In the event which has been included in Los Angeles 2028, the second-seeded Indian duo, a mix of youth and experience, showed consistency to get past UAE 158-144, Vietnam 159-155 and Kazakhstan 156-153 to set up a summit clash with Bangladesh.

The second-seeded recurve mixed pair of Yashdeep Bhoge and Anshika Kumari performed well before losing 0-6 to Chinese Taipei in the semifinals. India will meet top-seeded Korea in the bronze medal match.

The results:

Mixed team:

Recurve: India (Anshika Kumari, Yashdeep Bhoge) got a bye (1st rd), bt Qatar (Maha Syedabdulhye, Ahmad Al-Sada) 6-2 (2nd rd), bt Bangladesh (Sima Akhtar Shimu, Ram Krishna Saha) 5-1 (QF), lost to Chinese Taipei (Li Tsai-Chi, Tai Yu-Hsuan) 0-6 (SF).

Compound: India (Deepshikha, Abhishek Verma) bt UAE (Maitha Alnuaimi, Mohd. Saleh Binamro) 158-144 (1st rd), bt Vietnam (Ngyuen Thi Hai Chau, Ngyuen Trong Hai) 159-155 (QF), bt Kazakhstan (Roxana Yunussova, Andrey Tyutyun) 156-153 (SF).

Getting off to a solid start is crucial for SA, says Graeme Smith

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

Graeme Smith has played enough cricket in the subcontinent, and knows the conditions well. So, as South Africa gears up for its two-Test series against India, beginning in Kolkata from Friday, the former captain has a piece of advice for the touring side - find a way to deal with Jasprit Bumrah's opening spell before the Indian spinners come into the play.

"Getting off to a solid start, having a top three that can lay a platform for you (is crucial). There's nothing worse than if you go two or three down and then the spinners come on and you're against the game already. So, countering Bumrah up front is going to be a big thing, and (Kagiso) Rabada as well for India. They're world-class bowlers with world-class Test records," Smith said on the sidelines of the SA20 Media Day.

Amla, du Plessis, Miller and Boucher during an event ahead of season four of SA20. PTI

Keshav Maharaj, Simon Harmer, and Senuran Muthusamy – in its ranks, and Smith believes that the touring team has a formidable bowling line-up that can put India to test.

Faf du Plessis, however, believes that a lot will depend on how the team handles the situation in the first Test in Kolkata.

Confident

"South Africa arrived in India with confidence. They are the No. 1 Test team in the world, and that means a lot. But confidence also quickly goes, when you play one Test match and you lose that confidence. Sport strains like that – one moment you feel like you're in such great form, and then a week later, you feel like you're out of form. So, it's great that we're coming in with it (the confidence). But how we deal with that first Test match will be very important for the series," he said.

Onus

While the onus will be on Bumrah and Rabada to get things done, Smith admits that on Indian conditions, the visiting team will eventually be put to test by the spinners. To make the most of the conditions, South Africa has picked three seasoned spinners –

Stokes bats away criticism of England's preparations

THE ASHES

Agence France-Presse
PERTH

Captain Ben Stokes denied on Wednesday that England was undercooked for the Ashes against Australia after a chorus of criticism led by Ian Botham and Geoffrey Boycott.

England's full squad only assembled here last weekend, some coming from a white-ball series in New Zealand where they crashed 3-0, while others arrived in dribs and drabs.

England has only one red-ball warm-up game before the opening Test in Perth on November 21 – a three-day clash starting on Thursday.

Madness

Boycott wrote in a recent column for British newspaper *The Telegraph* that England's preparations were "madness".

"If they win in Australia it will be in spite of their lack of match practice, not because of it. Match practice would give them a better chance," he said.

Botham last month said a lack of warm-ups against Australian state sides "borders on arrogance" and renewed his criticism this week. "I think historically, you have to acclimatise when you come down here," he said.

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, BNCC, Zone-2,
2nd Floor BNCC (Old BBMP) Building, Opp. to Indira Canteen,
J.C. Nagar Main Road, Munireddy Palya, Bengaluru-560006.

No:BNCC-Z2/EE/HBL/PR/01/2025-26 Date:12-11-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only

The Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, Bengaluru, Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned BNCC for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of GBA-Bengaluru North City Corporation, or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of Work:
1.	**PACKAGE-01** Comphrensive Development and Improvements of Roads and Drains in Anjan Murthy Circle to MLA Layout, AECS Layout, KGE Layout, Maruthi Layout, HIG Colony and Muneshwara Temple, Railway Colony, Lottegolahalli, Basaveshwara Layout, Geddalahalli and Surrounding areas in Ward No. 61. Radhakrishna Temple, Ashwatha Nagar, Basaveshwara Layout, Bhoopsandra, Postal Colony, Nagshettyhalli, KEB Layout and Surrounding areas in Ward No. 62, Sanjaynagar, 4th, 5th Main Roads, SBM Layout, Anand Nagar, Traffic Police Station to UAS Layout, Chowdiah Block, SSA Service upto Seethappa Layout,Vinayaka Layout, S S A Cross Roads and Surrounding areas in Ward No. 63, Hebbal and M.R. Garden, Patel Muniyappa Layout, Gangamma Layout, Kanakanagar and Surrounding areas in Ward No. 64, Vishwanath Nagenahalli **(Ward No 61, 62, 63 & 64, 4 Works).** **Est. Cost (in Lakhs): 1900.00. EMD in Thousands:** Rs. 19,00,000/- (1.00 lakh through e-payment (NEFT) balance Rs. 18,00,000/- through BG/FDR should be submit before opening of Technical bid).
2.	**PACKAGE-02** Comphrensive Development and Improvements of Roads and Drains in Arallappa Layout, Guddadahalli, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar and Surrounding areas in Ward No. 64, Vishwanath Nagenahalli, Sunrise Colony, Seethappa Layout, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Nanjamma Layout, Hanuman Layout, Sanaulla Layout and Surrounding areas in Ward No. 65, Manorayanapalya, HMT Layout, Beerappa Block, Dinnur and Surrounding areas, Ex-Servicemen Colony, Kousar Nagar, Seethappa Layout, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar and Surrounding areas in **Ward No. 66, Chamundinagar (Ward No 64, 65 & 66, 4 Works).** **Est. Cost (in Lakhs): 1600.00. EMD in Thousands:** Rs. 16,00,000/- (1.00 lakh through e-payment (NEFT) balance Rs. 15,00,000/- through BG /FDR should be submit before opening of Technical bid).
3.	**PACKAGE-03** Comphrensive Development and Improvements of Roads and Drains in Ganganagar Extension, Mutthappa Block, Pappanna Block, HMT Layout Phase - 1 and Surrounding areas, Vasanthappa Block, Giddappa Block, HMT Layout Phase - 2 and Surrounding areas in Ward No. 67, Ganganagar, 14th,6th Cross 1st Block, R.T. Nagar, 6th Main Road, 15th,16th and 17th Cross Road, 2nd Block, R.T. Nagar, Dinnur, Ajappa Block and Surrounding areas, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Cross Roads, Matadahalli and Mariyappa Block, Lingappa Block and Surrounding areas in **Ward No. 68, JC Nagar (Ward No 67 & 68, 4 Works).** **Est. Cost (in Lakhs): 1500.00. EMD in Thousands:** Rs. 15,00,000/- (1.00 lakh through e-payment (NEFT) balance Rs. 14,00,000/- through BG/FDR should be submit before opening of Technical bid).

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender Documents can be downloaded from E-Portal **14-11-2025 onwards. (2)** Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at the above mentioned address on **19-11-2025 at 3:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals is **03-12-2025 up to 4:00 p.m. (4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **04-12-2025 after 4:30 p.m. (5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid after Approval of Technical Bid.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, Zone-2, BNCC.

A BG-BGE